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THE FARM-POULTRY

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The Autobiography of an Expert Poultryman

NOTE.—The editor of FARM-POULTRY tells me that someone asked him recently how soon I was going to begin to prove myself an expert, and make something on my poultry. I realize that some readers of my story are anxious to have it get to the point where success begins, but I have to tell things as they happened. No reader can be as impatient over the delay in bringing the story past the narration of troubles than I was about getting where I could see a clear road ahead of me; but it took a good while to do that, and the experiences meantime were all a part of the training and education in poultry culture out of which finally came success.—WM. WING.

Chapter VII.—Back to the Office.

FROM the time the partnership was dissolved I felt that as matters stood it would pay me better to hire Jones to do the poultry work, or the most of it, and get something for myself at which I could make more. When it came to actual work on the farm, Jones was always — after he got the hang of working with poultry — a better man than I. He had been brought up to labor, and could hold a good steady gait all day, day in and day out. I had put in so much of the years when a man is forming his habits for life at the desk that I lacked the physical training a man needs for steady labor. My tendency when doing manual work always was to rush things for as long as I could stand it, and then quit. Though I've tried, I never could get out of that way, and I may as well confess here that such success as I have made in poultry culture has been due more to head work than to hand work. Not that my head was or is a remarkable one—but for this purpose it has been of more service to me than my hands.

As I was saying, I thought of going back to the office. I thought of it a great deal, and even went so far as to look around a little for a position before I mentioned it even to my wife. When winter came on, with the fall work all cleaned up, and only work for one man on the farm, I concluded it was time to make a move. I mentioned the subject to my wife one evening. I didn't know just how she'd take it.

"I'd thought of that, myself," said she; "I thought of it last winter, but I didn't like to suggest it."

So there was nothing more to be said. All the arguments I had prepared in my mind to convince her — in case she objected — that this was the best move, were unnecessary. All that remained was for me to get a job where the hours suited. I was determined not to take a place where the hours were long, even if I had to take a little less salary, though I didn't seriously expect that, for, in general, the pay is poorest where the hours are longest. I found a place in the office of an agent for a manufacturing company, where I was bookkeeper, and in the absence of the agent, who was

out soliciting a good deal of the time, had to look after such customers as came to the office. Even with hours from 8.30 A. M. to 4.30 P. M., I made long days between the time I left home in the morning until I got back at night. Then my wife or Jones — usually my wife in the morning and Jones in the evening — had to take me back and forth between the house and our station; and when I reckoned the car fare, and considered Jones' wages and board, the difference in favor of this arrangement wasn't as big as we had hoped it would be. However, the difference was on the right side, and I resolved to keep on with the city work for the winter, anyway; and a good thing I did, for, as it turned out, it was the step toward a more satisfactory arrangement. Mr. Cartright, my

couldn't do a thing with any of them. 'Tis ridiculous. There's nothing doing in the stores, and the proprietors won't buy today. If I'd gone yesterday when business was rushing they'd stop selling to buy. Today when they have nothing else to do, they won't even look at a sample. No use to force goods on people — can't be done. I've sold long enough to know that."

He seemed to have caught the mood from his customers, for he was as crabbed and ugly as a man could be for the rest of the morning.

He took a couple of hours for lunch, and came back in a more pleasant frame of mind, chatted and laughed and joked; talked about nearly everything; finally to my surprise—for he had never shown any interest in the matter—started on poultry.

"What kind of chickens have you out on that farm of yours, William?" He always called me William.

"Oh, I've got a few Barred Rocks and some White Rocks and White Wyandottes."

"Got any good ones?"

"Just fair."

"What do you call 'fair'?"

"Well, in Barred Rocks I've got some pullets that if I had the right male to go with them, would have to be considered when they made the awards on pens, if I showed them at Boston."

"Why don't you get a male to go with them?"

"Can't afford it."

"If they're as good as you say, you can't afford not to exhibit them. Why don't you try them in the open class?"

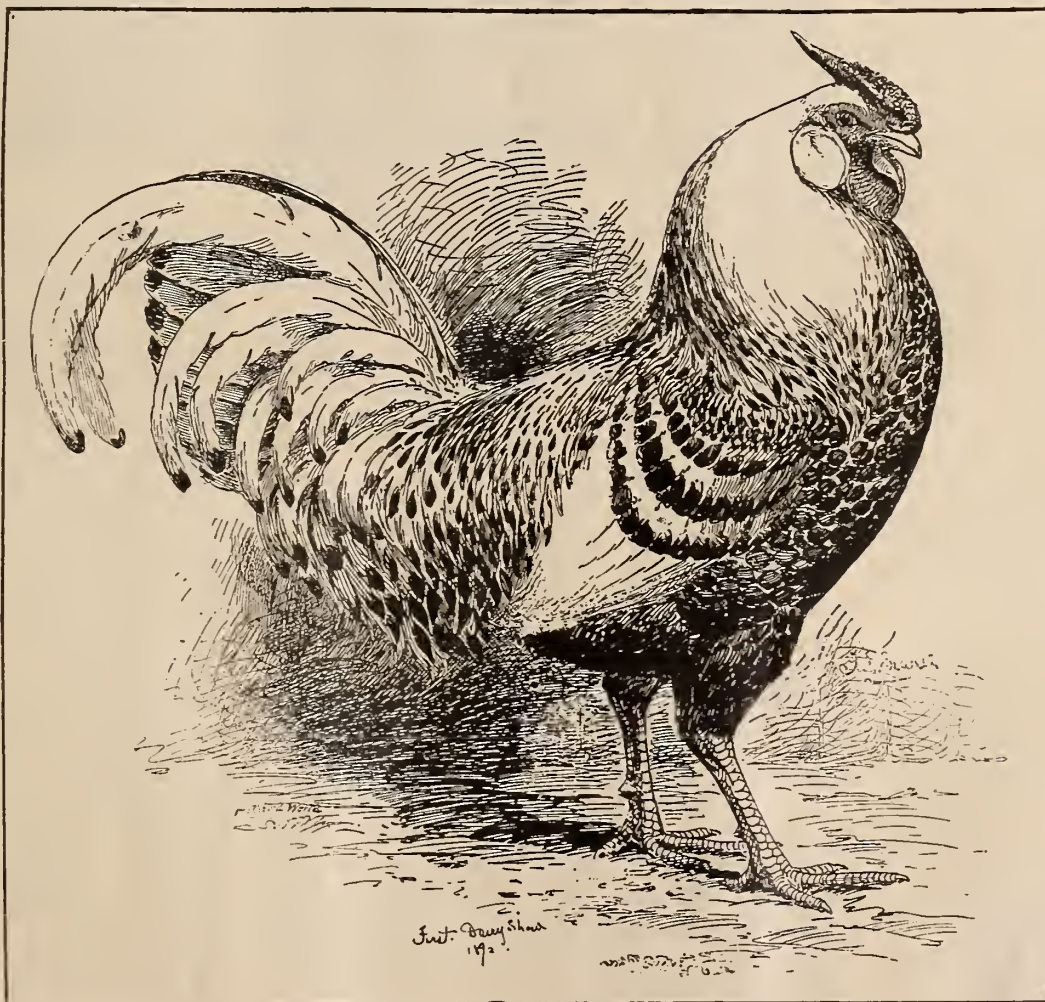
"I'm more afraid of the competition there; besides, even when you don't win at Boston, if you've anything good it attracts attention, and I've noticed that a good exhibit among the pens, though it doesn't even secure a mention, gets more attention from visitors than the same birds would scattered through the open classes. If I had a male that I thought even passable to put with these pullets, I'd enter a pen, but my early cockerels haven't the quality, and those of the

age of the pullets are not developed yet, and I'm afraid won't be in time for the show."

"You've got some good looking youngsters, have you? When were they hatched?"

"Last of June and early part of July. I have a bunch of nearly twenty hatched about that time, that look a lot better to me than anything I've ever had. If they were a month older —"

"I used to exhibit some — mostly Brahmas, though I had at one time a nice lot of Silver Wyandottes. Since I quit exhibiting I've followed the shows more or less, and given more attention to some of the other varieties. Now I never bred Barred Rocks, and don't know much



English Silver Spangled Hamburg Cock. First at Dairy Show in 1892. From Sketch by Sewell, originally appearing in the Feathered World.

employer, seemed to take a great fancy to me. It may have been partly due to the fact that he was interested somewhat in poultry himself. He had at one time been something of a fancier, but had moved about so much that he had given up trying to keep any fowls himself.

I didn't learn anything about his interest in poultry until after I had been working for him several weeks. One stormy day he went out to take orders in the city, but after an hour came back, saying: "I can sell people goods if they'll talk business at all, but I'll be hanged if I ever saw a day like today. I went to half a dozen places where I hardly ever fail to take a good order — went to half a dozen of them in succession, and



about them, but on general principles, if I had such pullets as you say you have, and a cockerel that lacked nothing but a little age, I'd take a chance on them. When do the entries close?"

"A week from Saturday." It was then Thursday.

"Invite me out to your farm, Sunday, William."

"I'd be only too pleased to have you come, see what there is to see, and take dinner with us."

"I accept your invitation."

Mr. Cartright came out to the farm on the following Sunday. He didn't care much about the "practical" features of the place. He borrowed a pair of overalls and jumper from Jones, who was nearer his size than I, put on one of my caps, and went through my stock as no one had ever gone through it before. He certainly was a born fancier and judge of poultry if there ever was one, and though he professed not to know anything special about Plymouth Rocks, either Barred or White, or White Wyandottes, he taught me more about them than I knew before, just by criticising the birds as he handled them. There were a number of Barred Rocks and a few of the others that he asked me to put in coops till we got through with the lot. After we had been through all, he studied the birds in the coops for a long time, then said:

"William, if you asked my advice, I'd say to put two of your Barred pullets—those two there, that hen and the old cock in the open classes. Of course we don't know what's going to be there. The competition may be too warm for us, but in any class of Barred Rocks, such as I've seen at Boston in the last three years, that old cock is good for a third or fourth, and if he catches the judge's eye right may do better. The hen ought to get a mention. If 'tis only a C., you get your name in the list. Those two pullets ought to land somewhere. I'd rather take chances on them in the open classes than to try it in the pens with the four you had selected. I'm not stuck on your selection. I see you favor wide barring. That goes sometimes in the singles, but in the pens I don't often find the judges favoring that type. The tendency in Barred Rocks is toward narrower barring and more pronounced black and white."

I could see he was right about the old cock and hen. I'd altogether overlooked them because I'd been giving all my attention to the young birds, expecting something better than the parent stock. I still had, too, something of the feeling that I wanted to exhibit and win only with stock of my own breeding. As to the pullets he wanted me to exhibit, they were cockerel bred, and I told him so.

"Pooh!" said he, "what difference does it make how they're bred? The judge makes his decision on what he sees, not on the ancestors he doesn't see. You put those pullets in the open class, and if they don't get a mention I'll pay the entry fee. Are you going to do anything with White Rocks and White Wyandottes?"

"I thought I'd sell these all off a little later."

"You've got one White Rock pullet that might win anything, and even if she doesn't, will sell for fifteen to twenty-five dollars, for someone is sure to fancy her."

I give this just as a sample of the conversation as we examined the birds. We handled them over and over, talked them over and over, changed our minds a number of times, and finally settled on what I should enter. I wasn't willing to try any Barred Rocks in the open classes, so we got together a pen that looked pretty well, putting in the old cock, one hen, and three pullets. In the White Rocks and Wyandottes, I entered a pullet and a cockerel of each just to advertise what I had to sell. Mr. Cartright urged me to put in more, saying that if I lost by doing so he would make it good, but I didn't want to be under obligation to him in that way, and was not flush enough of cash to feel like risking much.

In fiction, I suppose, the proper result of this exhibit would be first on the pen, and something good on the single entries, with orders for birds and eggs enough to put me on my feet financially, and give me a flying start in business. In fact—in my case at least—none of these miracles have ever happened. My Barred Rock pullets that looked so fine at home, while they did not disgrace me, were not in the competition for a minute, as I saw even before Cartright pointed it out to me after the birds were cooped. The old cock, the judge told me, would have had a V. H. C. in the cock class had he been there.

I got a C., one of three, on this pen. Since I've come to know more of the ins and outs of exhibiting poultry it has often occurred to me that the pen got this C. not on merit, but because of a word from Cartright to the judge, who turned out to be an old friend of his. Or it may have been that the judge did it on his own account, in line with the general policy of the management, to encourage future exhibits. That, at all events, was the result it had, for I was keen to have something good enough to get into the money at Boston the next winter. I got several offers for the old cock, but nothing I would consider, and one man made the munificent offer of fifty dollars for the pen.

On the other varieties I didn't even get a mention, but I didn't feel badly about it, for by entering them I sold all I had of both to a large breeder at an average price



Elaborate Fattening Contrivance.

Looking through his desk the other day, the editor came across the old cut which appears above, and remembered how years ago when sorting over a lot of old cuts to reserve such as were worth preserving when the bulk were sold for old metal, he put this carefully away intending to publish it for the benefit of curious readers not familiar with the literature of the day when illustrations of this particular kind of fattening apparatus were frequently seen.

The apparatus is designed for the special fattening of poultry, and is devised to save time and labor of the attendant, and to accommodate as many birds as possible in small space. The cage for the birds revolves, and the platform for the attendant can be moved up and down.

This apparatus used to be described as a model of an up to date labor saving device, but actual working models seem to have been extremely rare in this country. The writer in all his journeyings never saw one in use. When making a trip through New York state, some years ago, he was taken by a poultryman he visited to see one of the curiosities of the locality, a poultry plant long out of use, which years before had been elaborately fitted up by a wealthy man of an inventive turn of mind, interested in poultry and especially in the development of artificial methods. At this place we saw one of these contrivances, said to have been imported long ago from France. It was stored in one of the numerous outbuildings on the place, and was in sections which apparently had never been put together.

In its other features this plant had been developed along the lines one would expect in a man of the characteristics of its owner. Everything was on an elaborate scale. There was an incubator which must have had a capacity of more than 5,000 eggs, and there were brooders, arranged in shelf-like tiers under sash, on the principle that young chicks, like tender plants would thrive in a hothouse. The furnishings besides being on an elaborate scale, were of expensive construction, probably representing in the aggregate a sum most poultrymen would consider a fortune.

of three dollars each. On the whole, I was well satisfied. Cartright's interest in my poultry venture was also a help to me in other ways. As I shall have occasion to relate a little further on, it was the means of putting me in a position to earn a living while learning the poultry business. At this show it was the means of my making the acquaintance of a number of breeders and fanciers and really beginning to get into the fraternity. Though I had attended shows for some years, and exhibited a little, I'd never seemed to get into the inner circle of fanciers. I was a little too diffident in my intercourse with them, and disposed to regard with a degree of awe the man who had made a reputation as a breeder. So I kept a respectful distance, and felt—and, feeling, I suppose showed—a proper deference for these great ones

with the result that they seemed to me hard to approach and more puffed up over their position in poultry culture than was necessary. Cartright, who had never known what it was to feel diffident toward anyone, and who had greater faith in his own opinions than in those of anyone else, mixed familiarly with all these men, called them by their first names—if he happened to remember them—and discussed with them the points of breeds of which they knew far more than he did, with all the assurance of an equal. He introduced me to a number of these men, and seeing him on so easy a footing with them, it dawned on me that the offishness had been mostly on my side. I got on famously with them after that. Though I have to admit that there are a few swell headed, snobbish fanciers, I can say that in general I've found that men who have tendencies that way leave them home when they go to a poultry show. If they don't they are in for some hard rubs from the rest.

On the farm things were going on as well as could be expected. I mated up six pens of Barred Rocks that I thought good enough to produce stock birds, and got my incubators going before the end of February. I looked after them myself mornings and evenings. All the rest of the work Jones did, including delivering table eggs to customers. After the first of March spring seemed to come on fast that year. Jones was very anxious to get as much as possible out of the place in garden and crops that we could feed to stock, so my wife began to look after some of the poultry work, such as feeding at noon, collecting eggs, keeping records, etc. I got a little more time, too, mornings and evenings as the days grew longer, but not enough to make much of an impression on the work that needed doing, and I was beginning to think seriously of going back to the farm and making a final try there, and if I could not make it pay that season, give it up, when one day Cartright said to me: "William, you can't do my work here and carry on your poultry as you ought to, can you?"

"I don't know," said I. "I'm rather doubtful; I can't see my way clear."

"One of my customers, a young fellow who inherited his father's business, and nominally runs it, belongs to a swell club here in the city that exists practically for nothing else but to give its members their lunches and an exclusive loafing place. He asked me today if I happened to know of a good bookkeeper and thoroughly reliable man. They want such a man to look after the accounts of the club, and with the steward practically to manage it. It will take, as a rule, only four or five hours a day, perhaps not that at the office, for a good deal could be done at the convenience of the bookkeeper in the evenings at his home. I mentioned you, and took the liberty of giving him several other references. I think you'll have a chance at the place if you want it. The pay is a little better than I give you, and the position in every way more desirable for you."

I got that position and held it for several years—until the farm reached the stage where it could support us without outside help. The opportunity was a veritable godsend. As a rule, I did not have to get to the office before ten in the morning, and I was nearly always ready to leave it by three. Of course in winter when the days were short it didn't make much difference, but in summer I could get in almost as much work on the farm as if I were there all the time, for I could put in long days by this division of work, where at either kind of work alone I could have put in only an ordinary day.

Meanwhile at the farm things had been gradually shaping toward a better working arrangement, and after I got established in my new position it didn't take long to develop a division and routine of work that made a wonderful difference in the production of the farm, both in poultry and in the other products. Jones practically took charge of the farm. I gave him a free hand with it to do as he liked about crops, provided he didn't undertake so much that he could not give the necessary help with the heavier work with poultry. My wife and I looked after the poultry except that Jones fed the old fowls at noon, and did the cleaning and odd jobs. I fed mornings and evenings all the stock and looked after the incubators and brooders. My wife looked after the sitting hens, and fed all the chickens while I was away. She also collected eggs and packed them for shipment. We had to quit delivering to home trade, and sent all to a drug store in Boston, which paid a fancy price.

(To be continued).

Poultry Keeping in France

WHILE there are several points of close similarity between the French and the Irish poultry industry, the latter of which we discussed in a recent issue of FARM-POULTRY, the points of dissimilarity are still more striking. It is true that in both countries the bulk of those interested in the business are peasants and small farmers, but while in Ireland poultry keeping is still in its infancy in many respects, in France it has for many years past been regarded as of supreme importance among rural industries. In any country where the land is split up into a large number of small holdings there one is certain to find poultry keeping in a flourishing condition; in a country, on the other hand, where large farms abound the industry is almost sure to be neglected. France is eminently a land of small holdings, farms of more than forty acres being rare, while the average size does not exceed twenty to twenty-five acres. Thousands of men and women in France today are supporting themselves and their families upon ten or fifteen acres, and while it is true there is not much margin left after providing for the bare necessities of life, yet a living, or shall we call it an existence, is being secured. A large proportion of these men and women rely largely on their fowls, and although of course, they devote themselves to other important branches, yet poultry occupies an extremely important position.

France, too, is by no means a land of large poultry farms. The impression is very common in this country, and probably it exists to some extent in the States that there are many large establishments in France and on the continent generally where eggs and poultry are produced in a wholesale manner. This is quite a mistaken idea so far as France is concerned; large farms are practically non-existent, and the vast quantities of eggs and poultry that are imported are the result rather of a multiplicity of small poultry keepers, men and women who cultivate less than twenty acres, and who keep but fifty or a hundred fowls. While large poultry farms are interesting, and under some conditions prove extremely lucrative, yet I firmly believe that the industry depends for its full development upon the small men and women rather than upon the influence of the large plants. The whole secret of the success achieved by French poultry keepers is due to the fact that every farmer, every small holder, and every cottager is a firm believer in fowls. Each one regards poultry keeping among the most profitable of all the many and varied branches of agriculture, and as such considers that he would be missing a good opportunity of making money were he to neglect his fowls. By good management, suitable feeding, incessant care and attention, and a certain amount of selection and breeding he commands success.

Not only is France able to supply all her own needs as regards eggs and poultry, but she is able to export vast quantities. It is true there has lately been a shrinkage, but this is probably explained by the fact that during the last few years the number of tourists visiting France has enormously increased, representing a considerably larger home consumption. So far as one can tell, there has been no diminution in production. French eggs run those laid in England very closely indeed; in fact in many instances they are actually fresher than those produced upon our own farms, and it is possible to buy French eggs on the London market that were laid only three days previously. This is entirely due to the wonderful organization that exists for collecting and forwarding the produce. Organization in France has been

carried to a fine art. The dealers regularly travel the district, calling at each house three and sometimes four times a week, collecting the produce, taking it to a center, and shipping to England the same night. This explains why it is that often French eggs are more reliable than the home produce. Although her own needs are necessarily great, France is able to supply them and still export these huge quantities, and it has been estimated that the value of the eggs and poultry produced amounts to over £16,000,000 per annum—nearly twice as much as the total production of the United Kingdom. A very important factor towards the great success that has been

achieved by French poultry keepers is that in breeding utility points have always been regarded as of much greater importance than merely outward characteristics. It is true there are some French fanciers, but even these never lose sight of the vast importance of maintaining the economic qualities.

Although there are no large fattening establishments such as exist in many other countries, the quality of French table chickens leaves little to be desired. The French peasant, or generally the peasant's wife, knows well how to finish off the chickens,

how to make the breast round and plump, and how to secure flesh of a white color, delicious flavor, and fine quality and texture. They are probably unrivaled in this direction, and although they appear to devote but little attention to detail, they achieve excellent results. Particularly fine are the birds that are reared and fattened in the LaBresse district, the color of the flesh and the large proportion of breast meat to bone and offal being unrivaled elsewhere in France. The bulk of the finest specimens are disposed of in Paris, and I have known as much as 25 francs (\$5) to be paid for a couple of specially fine La Bresse chickens. A fairly large number of table birds are exported from France, chiefly to England, but by far the more important export trade is undoubtedly in eggs.

A somewhat curious system is in vogue in certain parts of the country, a system that also exists in Austria and Hungary—namely, the sale of fowls in sections. In Paris one is always able to buy half a fowl, but in Bordeaux the plan is still more extensively adopted, for here it is possible to buy any portion separately—the breast, wings, legs, etc. The same thing applies to geese, turkeys, and ducks. In the latter place even the comb, blood, and entrails are disposed of.

Until within the last few years fanciers, such as we know them in the States and in England, were unknown in France, and thus we find that practically all the French breeds of poultry possess valuable economic qualities, having been selected and bred with this end in view rather than for the possession of large combs, crests, or wattles, or of long legs, or of any of the extremes in which the average fancier so delights. There are in all fifteen purely French breeds, but many of these are quite local, and are of little interest outside their own neighborhood. In passing it may be remarked, however, that some of these little known varieties would probably pay well if they were "boomed" and their sterling qualities made fully known. Of the French breeds that have been thus taken up by those living in other countries are the La Bresse, La Fleche, Crevecoeur, Houdan, and Faverolles. These are all pretty well known, especially the last two, and as already suggested, they are all valuable from an economic standpoint, so much attention having been bestowed upon their utility qualities instead of upon their purely fancy

or external characteristics. The La Bresse, La Fleche, and Crevecoeur are purely table birds, the Houdan is a non-sitter, while the Faverolles is of the general purpose type, combining both the qualities of laying and table, but excelling in neither.

French fowls serve a very useful purpose apart from the eggs they produce or the excellent edible qualities they possess, which is no less than assisting very materially to maintain the grape growing industry upon a paying footing. It appears that vines are infested with hordes of obnoxious grubs, which play tremendous havoc, and which can only be kept satisfactorily in check by poultry. Every vineyard is, therefore, heavily stocked, and the fowls are allowed thereon for about ten out of the twelve months. When the grapes are ripening, they would, of course, do serious damage; for the vines are not more than three feet high, and the birds would quickly strip all the grapes off. Portable houses are scattered about the vineyards, and the fowls are given full freedom to wander far and wide, and in this manner not only do they effect good work by ridding the vines of slugs, but their manure is a valuable asset. The best soil for grapes is a gravelly one, which is excellently suited to poultry, and this explains why it is that the finest fowls are reared upon the farms where the best grapes are grown. A little while ago, while discussing this point with a large vine grower in the south of France, I was assured that unless he could heavily stock his vineyards with fowls he would be forced to give up the work immediately.

Perhaps there is nothing that strikes a visitor to the French poultry district more forcibly than the out of dateness of the appliances and of many of the methods of management. In every branch of agriculture this state of affairs exists, and the bulk of the appliances in everyday use are exactly similar to those used fifty or sixty years ago. With poultry appliances it is the same, and practically no advance has taken place for at least half a century. The probable explanation is that poultry keeping, and, indeed, farming generally, is mainly carried on by the peasant class, the great majority of whom are extremely poor and cannot afford to buy new instruments. It must be admitted, however, that in many instances which have come under our notice, even where there was quite sufficient capital, there was no initiative to adopt the newer and better methods. Whatever the reason, the fact remains that French poultry keepers are miles behind those living in America or England, and there is no doubt whatever that if they could be induced to move with the times a wonderful stimulus would be given to the industry. One example, and only one of very many that could be given, must suffice.

Very rarely are incubators used, hens being relied upon for all the hatching; the incubators that are in use are woefully out of date. A machine heated by an oil lamp or gas is almost an unknown luxury, and the heat is supplied by means of a hot brick which is placed within the incubator, and which has to be taken out and reheated every few hours. While the methods are out of date, and the appliances are old fashioned and in many instances cumbersome and ineffective, the results achieved are remarkable, and the French peasant makes a very good thing indeed out of his fowls. If we are not able to learn much from him as regards his methods or his appliances, we can follow him in one direction with beneficial results, namely:—the great attention he pays to the utility rather than to the fancy characteristics of his birds. By careful and systematic selection and breeding he has brought his fowls up to a wonderful degree of perfection so far as their laying and edible qualities are concerned.

E. T. Brown.

England.



Houdan Hen.



R. I. Red Pullet.



Licensed Judges Compulsory

THAT proposed amendment to compel all associations that have adopted the American Poultry Association rules to employ only licensed A. P. A. judges, set us thinking just a little. Isn't this putting it on a bit too thick?

The question as it appears to be, is not how many conditions can be crowded on these show associations, but how many associations are going to stand for the A. P. A. rules as they are.

There are a few enthusiasts, generally new members, who take great delight in glorifying the A. P. A. in ways that the rank and file of poultrymen and poultry associations will not support. It cannot be said that up to date the A. P. A. has obtained any great ascendancy over the various show associations throughout the country, though a beginning has been made.

As compared to the American Kennel Club, the A. P. A. is not a strong controlling body. It has not until recently undertaken anything in this line. Its office has chiefly been to offer advice and counsel. It has provided us with a Standard that has been to a greater or less extent arbitrary, it is true, but even in this Standard are rules of only the most general character for conducting exhibitions, and these are presented almost apologetically.

The proposed change is then most marked. The A. P. A. rules for exhibitions as they stand demand little of the associations conducting these exhibitions, except the ten dollars for membership and enforcement of these rules against dishonesty in awards, showing borrowed birds, etc., all of which are most commendable steps; and if there is one thing to be sincerely and devotedly wished for in all poultrydom, it is that this practice of borrowing birds be stopped. May the influence of the A. P. A. be strongly felt in this respect. The practice of judges selling birds to be shown for their awards is as reprehensible, and this the A. P. A. rules forbid. We are thankful for these reforms, and let us have more, but wise ones.

But in requiring licensed judges is not the A. P. A. going a step too far? Reference has been made to the American Kennel Club, an association whose control of kennel matters is almost absolute. This club is controlled in turn by men of prominence whose position makes it unlikely that they will be influenced by selfish motives. The reputation for absolute fairness which they have established and maintained for years has put this club in the high position it occupies—in absolute control of all affairs of this kind. This club formulates rules for all recognized shows, but allows other rules if not conflicting. It registers eligible dogs, but is judge of their eligibility. It allows a certain number of points toward a championship according to the importance of the show; it records these championships. It is final judge of awards in cases of appeal. It debars dishonest exhibitors and dealers for fraudulent practices. It even sets the dates for the different shows, so that they do not conflict with one another. It does all these things and more; yet, it has never occurred to this strong organization which may be said to have a monopoly of authority, so to speak, to license, or even to recommend judges, to say nothing of limiting the shows to a list of their selection.

If such an organization does not attempt and does not care to attempt such a radical step, is not the A. P. A. taking great responsibility and even greater risk if it endorses such a law?

Some are wondering what this business of licensing judges was instituted for, and others are wondering what it amounts to. And while these are wondering, many are applying for licenses. Some of these many are comparatively well known and somewhat experienced judges. They doubtless think they are following the crowd. Others are using their licenses to lift them to prominence. But what are the advantages of this license?

There are three parties involved: The American Poultry Association, the judges, and the societies employing the judges.

The Association.

The advantage to the association must be pecuniary if any, but the constitution distinctly claims that the

two dollar fee covers actual cost only. So that claim is dispelled, and we speedily arrive at the conclusion that it is of no financial advantage to the association to license these different judges. Further, at the last meeting of the association, there were about one hundred and forty judges granted licenses without this fee. Certainly no financial advantage there, and if the statement in the by-laws, Article III., Section 9, that the two dollar fee just covers expense of correspondence and clerical work. If these men were "ordained" judges at an expense of about two hundred and eighty dollars, it would seem hardly worth while to license so many just for "bait," when there is no profit in the fees of those who are to follow.

The Judges.

We frankly admit that to a certain class of judges, a plentiful sample of which can be had by consulting the list licensed at the last annual meeting, there is a big advantage in securing the A. P. A. endorsement, which to the uninformed means more than it should. This class of judges which are only semi-competent either through lack of ability or experience, perhaps both, can undoubtedly get more engagements with the A. P. A. endorsements than without it; but at whose expense? There are so many shows and so many judges to fill them. The competent judge has been placed on a level with the semi-competent, and if the latter gets more engagements the former will get less.

Then as far as the judges are concerned, this institution of A. P. A. creation works to the detriment of the competent and experienced judge and to the benefit of the heretofore almost unknown and but partially competent one.

The Shows.

And we will deal with only those shows that are held under A. P. A. rules. As under supposed ideal conditions, all shows will be governed by that body as members of the parent organization. Otherwise than being misled by the fact that judges, good and poor, have been placed on an equality by this licensing system, there are still further objections to this plan.

We are now considering that all shows are held under

A. P. A. rules, and that the rule is, as proposed, none but licensed judges can be employed. If this state of things exists for any term of years, where are we to get our judges, and where the judges their experience? The ambitious young fancier cannot judge, because he has not a license, and cannot be licensed because he has had no experience. This is a splendid back-acting reversible law. No license, no judging; no judging, no license. According to the law, members of the association must be recommended by five licensed judges as competent. But how are they to be recommended if they have had no judging? How is one to acquire skill as a judge without practice, as practice makes perfect? But where practice, if debarred from the shows? Verily, what are we coming to if this sweeping amendment goes into our constitution? There is certainly but one solution—a "school for judges," and then the next step, we can all see it, "correspondence schools," and next, the work of these judges thus educated. As a result we will all be ready to throw up the whole system and almost let the good old A. P. A. go with it.

Another point—a supposed case taken from several actual occurrences: A large show is to be held, and a large specialty club has offered a large sum, say four to five hundred dollars in special prizes. A big entry is assured if a competent judge is secured. None of the fixtures of the profession seem to be available or satisfactory to a large majority of the exhibitors. There is a general demand for a certain man, a large breeder of this variety of ten, fifteen, or twenty years experience, in whose honesty and of whose ability there is no manner of doubt. He will assure the show of this entry, and the exhibitors of just awards. But he has been so taken up and absorbed heretofore in business that he has never judged, but has exhibited constantly. No one has better knowledge of the variety than he. He has not received the A. P. A. license. He cannot get one in season to be of service to him for this time. The show cannot employ him. The entry falls off considerably, and the exhibitors are not satisfied with the judging.

This is a case that is sure to come up, and if not just in this form, in a similar way. It will be to the advantage of small shows to have certain judges that they cannot have under this proposed rule. Poultry shows, as a rule, have none too easy a time, financially or otherwise, and it is a most unwise step to hamper them with any such rule as is proposed. After all, where is there a single advantage to the proposed amendment, anyway?

A. C. SMITH.

The Women Who Should Strike

"OTHER people have good luck with their hens, but somehow Maria never does," said the farmer dolefully to the man who was selling pure bred fowls. "It wouldn't be a bit of use to buy expensive chickens, for they would die or get killed shortly. It does seem we have the worst luck trying to have chickens of anyone in the neighborhood. They die, or get carried off, or the eggs don't hatch, or something. When the neighbor women are carrying out a bushel or more of eggs to exchange for groceries at the huckster wagon, we have barely enough for our own use, and sometimes not that. It beats all how some folks get ahead in the world, and make money out of everything they touch, while others barely make a living."

"Do you know what I would do if I were your wife?" asked the poultryman, suddenly. "I'd go on a strike, and never raise another chicken until things were in shape for the work." He was certain he would not sell any fowls at that place, so he determined to speak his mind. "There are a number of women in this neighborhood who should do the same thing, and I'm going to make it my business to tell their husbands so."

"Why—what—strike?" began the farmer, looking bewildered. "I don't know what you mean."

"Then I'll explain," said the man quickly. "See this ground in your poultry yard? Been in use about as long as you've lived here, and 'tis literally alive with disease. You put your young chicks on here, and the first thing you know they have gapes and a lot of other diseases. They—"

"Maria knows how to cure the gapes real well with a twisted horse hair," broke in the farmer. "I don't believe they get them from the ground, anyway."

"Whether you believe it or not, it is true. Your wife would probably enjoy having a flock of nice healthy fowls that wouldn't need doctoring with a twisted horse hair. Most ladies do. And 'tis just as cheap to take a clean piece of sod occasionally for the chicken yard, since the old yard will raise corn or something else. Raising a few crops on the soil will purify and renew it wonderfully. Then look at those piles of old boards by the granary. Rats like nothing better than to have convenient homes near the poultry yard. Why don't you clean away all that trash, and give your wife a fair chance? Takes too much time? Nonsense. It wouldn't take half as much time as it does your wife to battle with all these difficulties. The price of two spring chickens ready for market will hire a man for a day, and he can put this entire yard in order. Yes, he could cut the weeds and burn the rubbish in that time. If you don't believe it, try it; and while you are in the business, burn up all those rickety old coops for the little chickens. They must be alive with lice, and lice sap the life of young and old chickens alike. What would you do for coops? Buy a few store boxes, and make some new ones, of course."

There are many ladies living in the country who would have sufficient grounds for going on a strike if this man was right, and he certainly was. No woman can do much besides heap up trouble for herself trying to raise poultry if conditions are unfavorable. If the wettest, weediest, most forlorn piece of ground is set apart for the chicken yard, it is foolish to try to have success with fowls. If the man of the house has no time nor inclination to put up a comfortable house in a well drained lot free from trash and weeds, then the

(Continued on page 312).



Rose Comb White Minorca Cock.

Results of the Maine Experiment.*

UP until the summer of 1907 no particular attempt had been made to analyze these records of egg production and to see what light they threw on the laws governing the process itself. In July, 1907, the department of biology of the station was organized and commenced its work. One of the first tasks undertaken in this department was the analysis of the egg record statistics. The complete analysis of the statistics is an extremely laborious task, and will take considerable time for its completion. It is gratifying to state, however, that the first part of this work has been finished and is now in the hands of the U. S. government printer awaiting publication. This first portion of the discussion of the records of egg production deals with the annual records. That is to say, that unit of this part of the investigation is the total production of the birds during the first laying year. A brief summary of some of the more significant results of the study of annual egg production which have a practical bearing on the future policy of the station in its poultry work are included here. It is to be understood that this summary is a direct compilation from the extended and detailed paper by Doctors Raymond Pearl and F. M. Surface, the biologists of the station, setting forth the results which are to be published as a bulletin by the Bureau of Animal Industry. In such a summary the evidence on which apparently dogmatic statements are made obviously cannot be given.

The chief reason or indeed necessity for making a detailed study of the annual egg production during the course of the breeding experiment obviously lies in the following considerations: The initial purpose of the experiment was to find a way to breed poultry so that an increase in egg production might be obtained. In order to get at this knowledge a specific method of breeding was tried during a period of nine years. The only way in which it is possible to get any light at all as to whether this particular method of breeding is the best or even a good one to attain the desired end is to find out precisely what happened in egg production in each

year covered by the experiment. If the method of breeding is a good one for its desired purpose then it would be expected that, barring accidents, in each successive year of the experiment there ought to be an increase in the average production of the flock. As a result of unavoidable accidents it might happen in any such experiment that in a particular year the average production would drop below that for the preceding year. Consequently in order to form any just estimate of the value of the method of breeding it is necessary to consider the results over the whole period of the investigation together. That is to say, the general trend of the egg production over the whole period must be taken account of, and the minor fluctuations in individual years must be neglected. The statistical examination of the annual egg records therefore, derives its justification from the necessity of determining what the value to the practical poultry man is of the method of breeding which has been followed in this experiment at the station.

Conclusions Reached From the Annual Records.

The detailed study of the annual records, using adequate mathematical methods of analysis, leads to the following conclusions:

I. There is a large amount of variation among individual birds in respect to annual egg production. The range of variation extends from zero to approximately 250 eggs in the records of the station. The amount of variation in regard to egg production is substantially the same at the end of the selection experiment as it was at the beginning. That is to say, after nine years of selection with respect to egg production, the birds breed no truer to a definite type of egg production than they did at the beginning. It will be recognized by every stock breeder that this is an important fact to be taken into consideration in passing opinion on the value of the method of breeding poultry which was tried in the experiment.

II. The general trend of average annual egg production has been slightly downward throughout the course of the experi-

years of the experiment. A second maximum was reached in 1905—1906.

It should be said that in the later years of the experiment (from 1902 on) there occurs in all but one year some accident which may be held to have diminished the egg production below what it should normally have been. In the detailed discussion of these figures in the complete report the most liberal allowance possible is made for these accidents, and it is there shown that even after making these allowances the general trend of the line of annual averages is only horizontal. That is to say, there is no evidence of any increase in the average production of the flock.

It will be noted by those who have followed the previous reports of the station with reference to its poultry breeding work, that the averages set forth in the above table do not agree with those which have previously been published. It is an unfortunate fact that the averages published in the earlier reports of this station were in several cases in error. So far as can be learned from the records themselves, the causes of these errors fall into two categories: namely, (a) faulty methods of handling the statistical material; and (b) arithmetical mistakes. As soon as the detailed paper of which the present discussion is an abstract appears it will be possible for any interested person to verify for himself the averages which are given in the above table, since in the complete paper there will be published the annual egg production of every single bird during the whole eight years for which complete records exist.

III. Another point which throws light on the value of the method of breeding for increased egg production, lies in the consideration of the relative number of "drones" and of high producers in each successive year of the experiment. Defining a very poor laying hen as one which produces less than 45 eggs in its first laying year, and as an exceptionally good laying hen one which lays more than 195 eggs in its first laying year, it is found that there has been no substantial change during the course of the breeding experiment in the relative proportions of either very high layers or very poor layers in the flocks of the successive years. At the beginning of the experiment there were relatively few "drones" in the flock. The relative proportion of such has not practically changed.

IV. During the last three years of the breeding experiment there was carried on in connection with it an experiment on the effect of the amount of floor space per bird and the size of the flock on annual egg production. Without going into the details of this experiment, which were entirely consistent in the whole of the three years, it may be said that it clearly appears that these factors of flock size and floor space have a definite and measurable effect on the average annual production. This effect is quite considerable in amount. The bearing of the results of this floor space experiment on the breeding experiment with which we are chiefly concerned here lies in the fact that the figures which will be given in detail in the complete paper show beyond any doubt that these environmental factors can, even after the close selection for more than five years, still cause very marked changes in the character (egg production) which it was hoped to fix in the strain by breeding. There is a considerable amount of detailed evidence which is presented in the complete paper, all of which tends to show that the quality of high productiveness cannot be regarded as any more a fixed characteristic of the station's strain of Barred Plymouth Rocks now than it was at the beginning of the experiment.

The general conclusion regarding the results of the breeding experiment may be quoted from the complete paper: "The practical conclusion to be drawn from the results of this breeding experiment seems to the authors to be clear. It is that the improvement of a strain of hens in egg producing ability by selective breeding is not so simple a matter as it has been supposed to be. Nothing could be simpler than breeding from high producers to get high producers. But if this method of breeding totally fails to get high producers—in other words, if the daughters prove not to be like the mothers in egg production—it cannot fail to excite wonder as to whether the simplicity of the method is not its chief (possibly its only) recommendation. Anyone who makes a

thorough first hand study of an extensive selection experiment carried out, as was this one, by the so-called German method, without testing of the centenary power of the individual organisms, cannot fail to be impressed, we believe, with the fact that the improvement of a race by selective breeding is a vastly more complicated matter than it is assumed to be by those who maintain that one need only to breed from the best to insure improvement. The supposed 'facts' of heredity on which the practical stock breeder (working for utility points) operates are in very large part inferences rather than facts. What is needed more than anything else for the advancement of the stock breeding industry in all its phases is an accumulation of definite knowledge of the fundamental principles of the hereditary process. All breeding operations must be based on the laws of inheritance in organisms. The practical stock breeder is able to work out the applications of these laws for himself. What he most needs is broader and deeper knowledge of the laws themselves. This knowledge must come from thoroughgoing, purely scientific investigations."

The Experiment a Success as an Experiment.

It must not be concluded from what has been set forth above that the experiment in breeding for egg production is to be regarded as having failed. To draw such a conclusion is to misunderstand completely the purpose with which the work was begun. The purpose of the experiment was to find out whether high egg productiveness could be bred into a strain of fowls by the method of breeding practiced. The experiment has answered this question in the negative. There could be but one of two answers to the question. It is no more to be couched as a failure of the experiment if the answer turns out to be "no" than if it had turned out to be "yes." To have the question answered so clearly and definitely is a great gain. It clears the ground to start a new experiment to see whether another method of breeding will make it possible to breed high egg production into a strain.

Furthermore, it must not be concluded that the strain of Barred Plymouth Rocks carried by the station is at the present time anything other than an excellent strain in respect to egg production. In spite of the fact that there is no evidence of any gain in respect to egg production during the course of the breeding experiment, the strain itself is without doubt an unusually good one in respect to this character. When the number of birds carried and the length of time over which trap nest records exist, are taken into consideration, it is doubtful if there is anywhere a strain of Barred Plymouth Rocks which surpasses the stock of the station in record egg production. The stock of the experiment station poultry plant is unusually healthy and vigorous. None of the infectious diseases which so commonly cause serious difficulty in the operation of large commercial poultry plants has ever appeared in the station's flocks. The small annual death rate which has existed throughout the poultry experience of the station can only be regarded as a normal mortality for hens fed and managed for high egg production. The inherent value of the strain of Barred Plymouth Rocks with which this work has been done is attested by the almost uniform satisfaction which has been expressed by those who have bought either eggs or cockerels from the station for the purpose of infusing new blood into their own flocks.

Head of White Wyandotte Cockerel.
H. E. Moody, Greenfield, Mass.

Year and pen.	Birds completed the year.	Eggs laid	Actual average production.
1899—1900	70	9,545	136.36
1900—1901	85	12,192	143.44
1901—1902	48	7,468	155.58
1902—1903	147	19,906	135.42
1903—1904	254	29,947	117.90
1904—1905 + 50 bird pens.	283	37,943	134.07
1905—1906 + 50 bird pens.	178	24,827	140.14
1906—1907 + 50 bird pens.	187	21,175	113.24

*Bulletin No. 157, of the Maine Agricultural Experiment Station, Orono, Me.
In these years the "floor space" experiments referred to below were conducted. Birds were kept in flocks of 50, 100, and 150 birds each. The highest annual averages have been made in each year by the 50 bird flocks. Consequently only these are included in this table. To include the others would simply be to lower the averages of these years below the figures given in the table.

ment. This is shown in the accompanying table, which gives the annual egg production for the years 1899 to 1907.

It will be seen from the last column of this table that the annual average production increased during the first three



Scratchings From Litter of Our Exchange Table

"Is the poultry world going utility crazy?" asks the editor of *Poultry Culture*. "Is the time coming when it will be considered a sin to breed a fowl that is not a dollar earner by the egg or meat route? Must every chicken bred have its practical as well as fancy side? It begins to look that way. The drift of the last few years has been most astonishingly toward those breeds that can do something for the pocketbook as well as delight the eye."

Then after confessing his faith in the "practical," editor Hicks goes on to say: "Yet we do not see any reason for decrying the breeder that wants to run his lines along the fancy side for art's sake. Why isn't it as much art to breed and create the tall storklike form of an exhibition Game as it is to write a musical composition full of thrills, highlows, and low-highs, that nobody but the truly musical elect can understand? Isn't it as much a work of art to make nature mix the paints in a ben paint factory, and pencil the

the way of the fancier, they have often overdrawn the lines of beauty, but few of them make the fundamental error of practicing their art on material—of working in a medium—the poultry public does not want.

There is another reason for the interest in utility poultry which those fanciers who are exulting in the days of high prices for phenomenal specimens—or as a reward for extraordinary ability in dealing with what a well known New England fancier once referred to as the kind of people who want to spend money for poultry, would do well to take note of. In the days of fables the goose that laid the golden egg was put out of business by the owner's desire to get rich quick. If the owner of that fable had been well up on poultry culture he might have put an end to the existence of the goose through the efforts of the owner to make her lay more and larger eggs. Extremely high prices for fancy fowls and their eggs may

are people of small means, who have to look at a dollar several times before they spend it—could indulge once in a while in a \$5 sitting of eggs, and the expectations it seemed to warrant. But since \$5 has in many varieties and in the offerings of many breeders ceased to represent the old time possibilities of first class specimens, there is not the encouragement there used to be to take chances in the best eggs we can afford to buy.

A correspondent of *Poultry* (Eng.) writing of the falling off in the laying averages of fowls as the number in a flock is increased, says: "If a mixture be made of one part by weight of pollards, maize meal, and half a part of oat meal with cold water, and this kept before a flock of forty hens from morning till night every day for a month in addition to the usual feeding, and then compare the laying average with a similar flock fed only in the usual manner, it will be found that the

mash that often the last of it was not cleaned up until afternoon, and late in the day gave whole corn in troughs.

Editor Curtis, of the "*Reliable*," must be beginning to lose confidence in human nature—or in his judgment of it. So many of the pictures in his gallery of friends have had to be tenderly turned to the wall or hurriedly pulled down and slammed upon the junk heap since he undertook to personally conduct Mr. Hallock out of his troubles. The latest is Mr. Henry Steinmesch. Words fail Mr. Curtis to describe the baseness of that gentleman's conduct in making an issue in the Southwest Branch election of Mr. Hallock's dealings with the branch. Mr. Steinmesch doubtless was prepared for this. How it may fare with the members of the Southwest Branch who re-elected Mr. Steinmesch by a vote of 49 to 7 after having been admonished by Mr. Curtis to ignore Mr. Steinmesch's "so-called explanation," we can only conjecture.



OWEN FARMS, PRIZE WINNING MALES AT CHICAGO 1908

FIRST AND SECOND COCKS, FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD COCKERELS.

Owen Farms' White Plymouth Rocks.

delicate markings of our penciled varieties as it is to mix a lot of paints on an easel and daub a canvas up with a lot of dunderheaded potato diggers bowing to a ringing church bell?"

There is more to the same effect, but in quotation, "enough is enough," and what I have quoted supplies texts for comments to fill many pages if extended. The drift of interest in the poultry world is not at present along creative art lines. There is a marked development of interest in two other directions — toward utility, and toward organization. There has always been interest and development along both these lines, but not always as conspicuously more active than in the fancy as at present. Yet at all times the poultry fancy in America has been essentially practical. American fanciers have cared little for such high art results as are displayed in the exhibition Game. Their art has been devoted to beautifying useful types. It cannot be denied that, as is

be a good thing for a time for the few who are able to obtain them, but their effect on the business in general is not an unmixed blessing. Many breeders have observed that with the rise in the maximum prices for fine stock and greater freedom of movement of such stock it is becoming increasingly difficult to dispose of ordinary grades of stock at living prices. The reason for this is plain. The prices for the best have gone so far beyond the means of most of those who become interested in poultry that a constantly increasing proportion of them are concentrating their interest on the utility side of the business. When a sitting of eggs from stock of best exhibition quality could be bought for \$5, when that was practically the maximum price for eggs of varieties that were well distributed, the higher prices occasionally mentioned obtaining only for novelties, every amateur considered himself a possible breeder of first class stock. The poorest of us, and the rank and file of the poultry fraternity

average has been raised considerably. My experience and observation go to show that a large flock of fowls always pays better with food always before it. This method has its objections, but it pays the best as far as I have been able to determine."

I made that same interesting discovery some ten years ago by analysis of reports of the old F.-P. Experiment Club. It had no doubt been made before by many poultrymen in practice, but so far as I am aware, had not before that time appeared in print. In visiting poultrymen after that I naturally gave special attention to that point, and invariably I found the poultrymen most successful with large stocks of fowls liberal and often wasteful feeders. As one of them I have visited many times used to say to me: "You can't get something from nothing. If you want a hen to lay well you must feed her well. This man kept his hens in flocks of 100 to 125, fed in the morning so much

Editor Herbert Myrick, of the *New England Homestead*, has for some time been agitating the matter of a conference for the greater development of New England. In the issue of his paper for the week ending July 11th, it is announced that Massachusetts, through governor Guild, would take the initiative in this movement, and a conference would be called to be held sometime after the middle of November — when elections are over and the gathering can be above suspicion of political motives. Such a conference should be productive of good results. At the least it can hardly fail to contribute something to the enlightenment of the general public on the problems that affect New England's future.

Referring to our remark about the elimination of superfluous and obsolete breeds from "The Standard," J. H. Devenstedt, in *The American Stock-Keeper*, asks, "Which are the superfluous and



which are the obsolete varieties referred to by the editor of FARM-POULTRY?" Discussing the question raised, he mentions the Buckeye as one we probably had in mind as superfluous, then passes to a consideration of breeds that might be termed obsolete, mentioning as in a fair way to become so, Black Cochins, Malays, Dark Brahmas, "the French breeds, except the Houdan," and Aylesbury and Cayuga ducks. As breeds that had been considered obsolete, but seem to be recovering somewhat, he mentions American Dominiques and Black Spanish. In conclusion he says—"It seems to us, however, that as long as any of the Standard-bred varieties are known to exist, it is just as well to keep them in the book." From the reasons given for doing so, we half suspect that "Drev." is joking. He would leave them there for the possibility of their sometime being boomed back into favor, possibly into favor they never enjoyed before, for some of the obsolete varieties can hardly be said ever to have been in any other class or condition.

The writer's personal opinion as to the proper attitude of the American Poultry Association toward varieties and kinds of fowls, while not perhaps orthodox, is— we believe—shared by a great many poultrymen. If "recognition" in the Standard is to indicate breed or variety individuality and quality or attractiveness beyond what is possessed by non-standard fowls, we think consistency requires the elimination of some now in it. As we understand the situation, the A. P. A. intends that recognition in "The Standard" is a certificate of merit, while the poultry public supposes that breeds in "The Standard" have merit and a standing among poultrymen that others do not have. This view is that the proper function of the A. P. A. is to give poultrymen authoritative information as to the characters and the state of their development of all kinds of fowls. Why should it wait to do this until breeders apply for admission for a breed or variety? The association exists not for the benefit of fowls, but for the benefit of poultrymen and fanciers. Standards need safeguarding as much in the formative period as after they have been formally consigned to the tender mercies of the tinkers.

Editor-judge Trafford resents the intimations given out that the executive board of the A. P. A. are to be more exacting in passing upon the qualifications of candidates for judges' licenses than they were at the first roundup last August, when the brand was put on everything in sight. Mr. Trafford got his license at that time, certifying to his qualifications to pass upon all varieties. He is now willing to surrender his license—if any member of the executive board present at the time will admit carelessness in the matter, or failure to make proper investigation in his case. From present indications it isn't going to make much difference what is done with the next batch of applicants. By the way, it occurs to us that the initial test of the knowledge of a candidate for a license to judge "all varieties" might well be to turn him loose in a coop containing several specimens or each of the standard varieties, and a few others to add to the value of the test, and see how many he can identify and name. We venture to say that not one judge in ten would come through that test unsinged.

C. S. Byers, of Indianapolis, Ind., sent some Black Orpingtons to the Jamestown exposition by express. Nearly all the birds were dead on arrival. Mr. Byers sued the express company for one thousand dollars. The *Inland Poultry Journal* reports that he was awarded the full amount.

The *New York Produce Review* reports as of special interest to commission merchants, a decision of the supreme court in a case involving the liability of an express company for damage or loss in excess of the limit stipulated in the shipping receipt.

The lower court found for the express company. The supreme court by a unanimous decision reversed this judgment, and the express company must pay in full for the loss. We recall the fact, but not the details of similar findings in similar cases involving loss of poultry in transportation. Our recollection is that it has repeatedly been decided that the stipulation in the shipping receipt does not re-

lease the express company from liability for the full value of lost or damaged articles. It does serve the purpose, however, of making most shippers think they signed away their right to collect in full for a loss. This and the trouble of collecting combine to prevent shippers from pressing claims, or for full payment of claims.

In his "Notes in Passing," in *The American Stock Keeper*, J. H. Drevenstedt says:—"We do not believe in gunshoe methods or passive policies in our association of any kind. The American Poultry Association is a public body, and is open to criticism, censure, or praise, the same as any other organization. The poultry press is the medium for the exchange of views. Readers are entitled to the facts relating to any legislation undertaken by the A. P. A. They are also entitled to learn the facts governing the conduct of any official connected with a public organization. To hide or ignore them is to invite suspicion and destroy confidence."

That paragraph states plainly and well some things that those interested in the upbuilding of the association should consider. There seems to be a disposition in some quarters to take the position that if the A. P. A. "does something for the industry, the methods of those who manage it must not be too closely questioned, nor must the public be too insistent that the association do the things it wants done. The poultry public must be thankful for what is offered them, and accept it without question or comment, unless they feel like making favorable comment. The day of that sort of thing is pretty near gone by, however; and those who want to be identified with the progress of the association in the future had better recognize the situation and govern themselves accordingly. The new constitution isn't working just as it was intended to, but it is working in accordance with natural laws, and in due time the results will be apparent."

Mr. Drevenstedt quotes from a letter from D. Lincoln Orr, the following story which no doubt will be as keenly appreciated by the gentleman at whose expense it is related as by any. Mr. Orr says:—"I was calling on a friend of mine lately, a poultryman; he had a little daughter of ten on his knee a part of the time. We talked poultry, and drifted to A. P. A. matters and men, and talked not a little concerning Curtis and his grip on the situation. The little girl went to bed. On saying her prayers she said: 'God bless papa and mamma, sister and brother, and please God take good care of yourself, as there is no one left to take your place except Mr. Curtis, and papa don't think as much of him as he used to.'"

"Proof of the Fancier's Supremacy" is the title of an article by H. S. Babcock, in the *Poultry Fancier*. We have seen many ridiculous effusions on this topic, but nothing to equal this. It seems to have been compiled by gronping together the wildest statements of the most reckless writers upon the subject since fanciers began to bring discredit upon the fancy by posing as the aristocrats of the poultry world and the patron saints of commercial poultry culture. Listen to this: "Compared with the great body of poultrymen, * * * in importance, real, vital importance, he overtops them as does some great tree of first growth overtop the brush wood which surrounds it. He is like the sun, the center of the system, giving light, heat, and life to all." Then as if the very exuberance of his statements suggested doubts in his own mind, he concludes his several columns of this sort of eulogy with: "The true fancier is not only the most important factor in the poultry industry, but the sanest person connected therewith."

It would be a good thing for poultry interests in general as well as for voluble flingers for the fancy if some of these versatile gentlemen would take a day off and devote it to consideration of what would become of the fanciers if left to their own resources. The plain fact is that in this country no line of division can be drawn between fanciers as a class and people who are not fanciers. We have a proportion—not very large, of poultry keepers

whose only interest is in what they consider the beauty of their fowls. We have also many keepers of poultry indifferent to fancy points. But the mass of interested poultry keepers is composed of men and women interested both in the beauty of their fowls and in the profit to be derived from them. And this is the salvation of the industry and of the fancy.

The *Industrious Hen* reports a suggestion that at the next election the first and second vice-presidents be taken from the south and the far west, "with the tacit understanding that if they prove efficient officers they be moved up in position each

succeeding election. This will make a rotation in office, and give each section of the country representation in turn, by an officer who will have had one, two, or more years experience in the affairs of the association."

The day of tacit understandings in regard to offices in the A. P. A. has gone by. If the south and the far west present candidates for these or other offices there are a lot of people who will vote for them, but we don't think many are ready to mortgage the office of president in advance to any section, and we don't see how a tacit agreement could be made effective.

The Morose McGrew.

THOSE who have an intimate acquaintance with our well equipped and especially favored friend, T. F. McGrew, associate editor of *Feather*, member at large of the executive board of the American Poultry Association and of several of its standing committees; author of several government bulletins, but not the one on squab raising, (which some think he should have edited,) would naturally think he would be well content with himself as a result of his personal canvas for membership of the executive board, even if not a little chesty,—but no, Thomas seems very much depressed because he did not get quite all the votes.

In the June number of the *Feather* he or editor Howard, (whoever wrote it—the statement is probably echoed by both) wrote the following paragraph:

"Why editor Robinson and his associate, Mr. A. E. Smith, should labor so hard to stir up discord, we are at a loss to understand. One or two others in the same neighborhood joined with them in the carrying on of the campaign against the successful candidates. The most unnatural excuse possible was that made use of by them in claiming that the men who were successful should not be elected because they were directly or indirectly associated with poultry publications."

So "discord" consists in opposing T. F. McGrew and the editor members of the executive board. We know that editor McGrew is a longtime out of school, but we suggest that he become acquainted with the technical definition of the word. It would certainly seem, according to him, that if we are to have any opposition candidates in our A. P. A. elections, we are creating and harboring "discord." We must also, according to the preceding paragraph, which we will not trouble to quote, have absolute unanimity on all questions and measures.

Accordingly we are, hereafter, not to be men of opinions with the courage of our convictions, but mere machines to carry on the wishes of—well—who? Who is the infallible one whose track we are to follow? We had the notion that this infallibility came through the will of the majority if, indeed, there is such a thing as being infallible in an association of the nature of the American Poultry Association.

But one inquiry, please: If a contested election breeds "discord," why did our constitution require our officers to be chosen by election? Why do we vote on measures if it breeds "discord?" Further, why are men created with different opinions and ideas if this discord germ is so unhealthy and fatal?

An ex-president of this association said to me several months ago that the interest in the last election and diversity of opinions on the different matters of proposed legislation was the life of the organization. Evidently he differs with the one who makes a plea for unanimity in all things A. P. A. For years I have watched some members of the association, and wondered why they were so extremely particular to vote with the majority—and now I know. It is to prevent "discord." Noble chaps.

We believe that a good, earnest, healthy contest hurts no one permanently, and certainly stirs up interest in the other affairs of the association. We have no use for underhand methods or dirty politics, but have no objection to a good, clean contest that fairly weighs the pros and cons. The writer has no objection to editor members of the executive board in

fair proportion, or to the recently elected members on personal grounds; but he has most decided objections to a full board of editors when the great body of our members are poultrymen or fanciers. We believe in the good sound judgment of these two classes, and it is the observation of about thirty years in this work that editors and professional judges learn about all they know from poultrymen and fanciers. We prefer to trust in this case the judgment of the experienced instructors rather than the orally instructed. For this and other reasons we prefer to see poultrymen and fanciers given a fair representation.

For this cause and for one other the little movement was started by FARM-POULTRY last winter, but it was not expected even by its promoters that it would result in the election of a single one of its candidates. It was inaugurated with the idea of awakening the vast majority; (who are those "interested in poultry directly," to the fact that the small minority who are those "interested in poultrymen directly, and in poultry but indirectly")—that the very small minority were more largely represented than the large majority. Considering the fact that to the beginner and small breeder his pet poultry editor is a sage, an oracle, or a tin god on wheels propelled by perpetual motive power which is seldom recognized as, but is, gas; we who it may be said began this little movement for a better representation of fanciers and poultry raisers are very well satisfied, particularly as the second object of our movement, that of a better representation of certain sections of the country, namely, the west and south, seems to have taken lasting root.

No less a publication than the *Reliable Poultry Journal*, in an editorial in the June number advocates giving the south representation on the executive board. It says plainly that this is a duty that is clearly up to the whole country to perform. Certain members of the poultry press have commented favorably upon this editorial who did not see fit to take the same suggestion from FARM-POULTRY nearly six months previously.

Is the good judgment of these editors slow but sound in its conclusions, or are the editors prejudiced against FARM-POULTRY for not advocating the election of editors, first, last, and always?

For the last named offense, associate editor Mr. McGrew arises and smites us the last damning blow—we, editor Robinson and myself are "unnatural." For why? Because as editors we do not support editors for all the offices; in other words, because we do not assist the editors to "hog" all the offices.

Look at the dreadful charge—"unnatural," and how we hate that word. We do. And we are astonished that the fastidious Mr. McGrew should use it.

But to allow us the use of the distasteful word, we submit if it is unnatural for editors to support fanciers for the offices of the American Poultry Association, it is just as unnatural for fanciers to support editors, and pleading the cause, as you pleaded it, Mr. McGrew, with "natural" methods in vogue, i. e., editors supporting editors, and fanciers supporting fanciers, you would have been defeated about ninety-nine to one. Now, come to think of it again, my friend, are you not in this instance rather fond of the "unnatural" yourself?

A. C. SMITH.

Waltham, Mass., July 5, 1908.

Editorial Page of Farm-Poultry

The Literature of Ancient Poultry Culture.

THE editor's thanks are again due to Mr. E. T. Brown, our valued contributor, for a copy of a rare poultry book. This time it is "The Illustrated Book of Domestic Poultry," edited by Martin Doyle, and published by George Routledge & Co., London, 1854. We read some years ago a copy of this work loaned by a friend, and have on occasion consulted the copy in the Boston Public Library, which has a collection of poultry literature probably second to none, but there is nothing like having your own copy of a book you value. It adds to the satisfaction of possession to have in an old book practically perfect condition, and the pleasure is enhanced when the book serves as a constant reminder of friendship.

The fresh examination of this work revives and intensifies an impression which has been growing in the writer's mind as from time to time during the past eight months he has engaged in a somewhat critical examination of our poultry literature. We had noted years ago that while so prolific of periodical and pamphlet literature, modern poultry culture was strikingly barren of real book literature. Especially is this true as to America, where chiefly the poultry periodical has flourished. In England pamphlets on poultry have been numerous, but periodicals not conspicuously so, and literature of these classes seems to have been less potent in the extension of poultry knowledge in Great Britain than it has with us.

In America very few books on poultry have been produced in which their authors and publishers had confidence enough to put them up in good shape and attempt to sell at prices which indicated faith in the power of the publication to satisfy a buyer who had paid a price for it such as a similar work on any other subject would command. Wright's "Practical Poultry Keeper," first issued, if our memory is correct, in the late 'sixties, was long the most authoritative work on the subject here, though in many respects not adapted to the needs of the American poultryman. The only American publication which might be classed with it is Felch's "Poultry Culture," which we do not think had half the influence in this country that Wright's book had, our impression being that I. K. Felch's influence on American poultry culture was exerted chiefly in his personal contact with representative men of all sections, and through his constant contributions to periodical literature.

Of books, self-respecting in attitude and imposing in form, we have had practically none but these from the days of Browne, Dixon, Doyle, and Tegetmeyer, whose reputation as a writer on poultry belongs to that same period — the period immediately following the general awakening of interest in poultry which took place about the middle of the last century.

Our personal acquaintance with poultry literature began at a very early age, and hardly a score of years after the books of Browne, Doyle, and others appeared, yet even then those books were, so far as the general poultry public were concerned, back numbers, and it is a question in our mind whether they had been "popular" at any time.

We used to think that the failure, as we have always regarded it, of these books, was due to their being in advance of the demand. That the public interested in poultry was not at the time they appeared, nor for long after, ready to pay for books mechanically of this grade. But the impression grows upon us that the trouble with these books, considered as candidates for popular favor, was not that they were in advance of the demand in form, but that in substance they were away behind it; that they belong not to the new era, in the early years of which they were compiled, but are the posthumous productions of the preceding era. As such they have an interest for the student, historian, or investigator of poultry matters which they do not have for the majority.

Viewed in this light these books seem to us more valuable than if we regard them as expressing especially the poultry culture of their own time. When we analyze them we find that to a greater extent even than their writers admit, they are compilations of information upon the subject derived from a variety of sources, and were written not by men who knew the subject intimately and had access to a large periodical and pamphlet literature, but by men of some literary skill accompanied undoubtedly in some instances by a knowledge of poultry matters, who recognizing a rising demand for information on this subject, set about supplying it by collecting information from all possible sources including hearsay, tradition, the allusions to poultry found in general literature, and the observations of naturalists.

The result of such methods could not be a book that would interest the average person interested in poultry. At the same time we cannot read these books without an increasing appreciation of the progress of poultry culture prior to the modern era in which such remarkable strides have been made.



Pernicious Precedent.

AT FREQUENT intervals during the past ten years we have called the attention of poultrymen to the kind and quality of work done avowedly in their interest by the United States government through the Department of Agriculture, and have suggested that it would be well for Congress to investigate this department, beginning by getting the views of competent persons on the various lines of its activities.

It seems to us bad enough to have public funds wasted as they have been in a great deal of the so-called "work" of this department, but if the waste of public funds were limited to this department the situation might be endured.

Now we find the expenditure for the Department of Agriculture used as an argument to promote the establishment of a "National Department for Health." This movement is made under the auspices of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, by a "Committee of One Hundred," the list of membership in which includes many names famous in educational, scientific, and philanthropic work.

It is a formidable array of talent and influence that these names seem to radiate from the stationery of the committee where they are conspicuously displayed. We wonder, though, how many of these men are familiar with the stuff put forth in the name of the committee, and willing to stand for it. We doubt whether any of them would care to put it out over his own personal signature.

We wonder, also, how many of these men have an intelligent and independent

opinion of the work done under the auspices of the Department of Agriculture, and how many simply accept the official opinion. Before using the expenditures by the Department of Agriculture as an argument for the creation of another department to spend more millions, the Committee of One Hundred should, in scientific spirit, investigate the work of the Department of Agriculture.

Even should this committee be able to satisfy itself after such investigation that the money appropriated for that department was generally well spent, we think its members will admit that the situation justifies such arguments for a National Health Department as that of the leaflet entitled, "The Health of the Hog Came First, We're Next," for they can hardly fail to realize that whether well advised or ill advised in what it is doing for the hog, the government does what it does, not for the hog, but for the people.



The Good Work To Go On At Orono.

IN OTHER columns of this paper appear a notice of Bulletin No. 157 of the Maine Agricultural Experiment Station, and a reprint of the part of that bulletin relating particularly to the results of the experiments in egg production, which more than anything else have given the Maine station its reputation among people interested in poultry.

To the editor of this paper the bulletin mentioned possesses peculiar interest. Ever since the first report of the experiment in breeding for egg production was sent out, we have criticized the Maine station for its attitude in this matter, and in commenting, as they appeared, on the two bulletins previous to this, we have severely condemned this part of the work while giving the station full credit for its good work in other directions.

In the issue of October 1, 1905, we said: "In this pedigree work the station began on a basis which the experience of many breeders had rejected. It goes on breeding according to arbitrary rules no more in accord with the principle they themselves lay down than with those generally accepted. And it persists in seeing encouragement in results where a disinterested person could hardly find a trace of it."

"We feel rather strongly in this matter because it is a question with us whether the harm this station has done, and is doing, by exploiting its 200-egg standard does not more than offset the good work done in other directions. * * * It has made and makes no difference that it insists that it is not trying to breed 200-egg average flocks. Such a claim is negated by the fact that it makes 200-eggs its standard. The public is much impressed by the standard, scarcely at all by the disclaimer, and a considerable section of it has been fully persuaded that the Maine station has made substantial progress in producing a 200-egg strain, when the fact is that it has made none worth mentioning."

In commenting on the next bulletin which appeared, about a year later, we called attention to what seemed to us an apparent manipulation of figures, and again pointed out that the experiments were not giving the results claimed, and that those in charge of them seemed blind to the strong indications the results were giving of different results from a different system of breeding. The fact which we have again and again pointed out is that in the breeding experiments at this station there was the form without the substance of judicious system.

In public condemnation of faults in the work of this station, FARM-POULTRY has stood alone, as it has generally in adverse criticism of all work of this class. Privately a good many have agreed with us. Indeed, we think those most competent to pass upon the merits of "government work" for poultry, have usually agreed with us as to the facts even when they differed as to publishing them, or saw no occasion to publish their own opinions. Taking the position we have in this matter has subjected us to the censure of all those whose trust in everything which bears an official label is firm, and of those who always suppose the majority must be right. Again and again we have been belabored for egotism and what not else for urging our own views of such matters when the general tone of the poultry press was to the contrary. While we cannot profess to have been disturbed by such censure, we are naturally gratified over the justification of our strictures on the work at one station so frankly made public in a bulletin from that station.

It is proper also in this connection to refer to the admirable way in which director Charles D. Woods has handled a delicate situation. In reviewing the other poultry work of the station, (in paragraphs of the bulletin which we have not quoted), he perhaps claims more for his station than we would be disposed to concede, for it seems to us that he does not appreciate how far the knowledge of many practical breeders is in advance of scientific investigation of such questions. But with his discussion of the results of their principal experiment no fault can be found. It is a fair statement of facts, taking only its just dues in credit, and frankly admitting errors for which, as director, he has a nominal responsibility, though the actual responsibility rested with a subordinate.

The writer has believed and has repeatedly and bluntly expressed the opinion both by word of mouth and in print, that the representations coming from the Maine station in regard to the results of its experiments in breeding for heavy egg production were doing a vast amount of harm because they were disseminating false ideas about principles of reproduction, and because wherever the idea obtained that the results here were as the bulletins and those who relied upon them represented, the effect was to make people dissatisfied with stock and results as good or better than would actually be found here. It is right that we should be equally outspoken in appreciation of the action of the management of this station in doing its utmost to correct erroneous impressions of its work, and our approval in general of the plans announced for future work.

Regrettable as is the necessity for an explanatory bulletin of this kind, we cannot help feeling that this one will have a general salutary effect. It cannot fail to suggest to experiment station workers everywhere the need of caution and of giving heed to the results of common experience when projecting experiments. It cannot fail to suggest to the thoughtful reader the necessity of proving all things and accepting nothing on bare authority. Its lessons will come most forcibly to those whose familiarity with the situation and the men involved gives them a glance at the tragic aspect of the incident.

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Joining the American Poultry Association.

WHILE not fully endorsing the high estimate of the services of the A. P. A., or fully sharing the strict view of the duty of the poultryman expressed by Mr. A. C. Smith, president of the Massachusetts Branch of the American Poultry Association, in the appeal for members which appears in another column, we heartily second the appeal — on general principles.

The American Poultry Association today is in a transition state. It has so recently entered that state that happenings in the association at present afford little indication of what may transpire a few years or even a few months hence. In adopting the present constitution the association created conditions as to the general organization of poultry interests which make it the scene of the "inevitable conflict" of opposing interests and tendencies. What the American Poultry Association of the immediate future will be, depends mostly upon the extent to which outsiders who have not approved of it in the past go in and work for what they want.

We have repeatedly urged the poultry associations to join. We have never made any secret of our hope and belief that ultimately the poultry associations would control and bring about desirable changes. We believe that ultimately some disposition of the different classes of membership will be made which will eliminate the faults of the present system. Meantime the most efficient single factor in bringing about such results must be the individual member to whom the personal privileges of membership are but means toward the placing of the organization on a sounder basis.

The individual poultryman who wants to see things done differently, and organized efforts more generally beneficial, and who is willing to work for that result, cannot spend either money or time to better purpose in these days than by joining the association and cooperating with those in it to make it what he thinks it should be.



The Lid Wouldn't Stay On.

THE editor of *Poultry*, having been present at the counting of the ballots by the election commissioner, next day kindly notified the editor of FARM-POULTRY of the result.

Feeling temporarily in a genial mood, he declared in his letter, "The election is over, the vote is counted, and the incidents connected with the campaign are closed."

On mature consideration, he apparently changed his mind, for though that was written May 5, the June issue of *Poultry* gives special prominence to incidents of the campaign with which he and the writer had something to do.

We do not in the least object to Mr. Purvis' continuing to thresh over campaign incidents. The fact that he does so after having voluntarily renounced the privilege, does not bother us in the least. We think, however, it may fairly be published for the light it throws on Mr. Purvis' professions of indifference toward a renomination. We are willing to believe that Mr. Purvis really thinks that his actions and professions in both cases are consistent. We would take his word for it that he tried to make them so. But it seems quite evident that he isn't equal to the task of carrying out his good resolutions.



Behind the Times.

THE *Poultry Keeper* informs its readers that "a new line of poultry is being raised and marketed in some of the large eastern cities. This is known as 'soft roasters.'"

The line referred to has been extensively carried on near Boston for more than ten years. It was begun on present lines something like twenty years ago. The associate editor of the *P.-K.* has been living all that time within a short distance of it. For about ten years the industry has been well advertised in the poultry papers and incubator catalogues. But for that we would not think it strange that the *P.-K.* was just finding out about this, for we suspect that there are things worth seeing in the poultry line in this vicinity we have not yet found, and we've tried to search out everything worth while. It is hard sometimes to have really interesting things happening close to you, and you never know it.

Last fall a drove of some thousands of geese was unloaded from the cars and driven along the roads only a few miles from the editor's home. F.-P. should have been there with a camera, but we did not hear of it until next day.



Times Have Changed.

AT ONE of the first meetings of the American Poultry Association—it must have been the first "formal" meeting—someone nominated an editor for office. Someone else objected to the election as likely to cause feeling on the part of other journals. The editor-nominee declined a nomination. A resolution was passed that representatives of the poultry press should not be named for office. All that is changed. Now some editors are offended if a candidate not connected with the poultry press is suggested.

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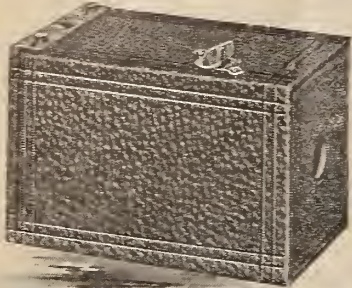
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White Diarrhea Not Peculiar to
Artificially Hatched Chicks.

THE *Journal of Medical Research* for May, 1908, contains an article on "Fatal Septicemia in Young Chickens, or 'White Diarrhea,'" by L. F. Rettger and S. C. Harvey, of the Sheffield Laboratory of Bacteriology and Hygiene, Yale University, which is in part a review of the history of the disease and of discussions of it which have appeared in various publications and in part a report of observations of the authors.

With the facts and opinions as set forth in the premises, readers of this paper are generally familiar. The details of the experiments made would interest too few of our readers to warrant their reprint in our columns. Those who wish to fully inform themselves of the work of Messrs. Rettger and Harvey should consult the publication in which their article appears. For the rest we reprint here the remainder of the article.

Late in the summer of 1899, one of us had occasion to observe what appeared to be a peculiar epidemic among young chickens two to three weeks old. A brood of seventeen chicks which were running at large with the mother hen were affected. Within a period of eight or ten days all but three became sick. Of the sick all but three died, making the mortality sixty-five per cent of the brood. The mother hen and other full grown chickens remained apparently unaffected.

The disease first showed itself by loss of appetite and sluggishness; the feathers became ruffled, and diarrhea prevailed. The droppings were of a whitish color. The chicks remained standing in one position and refused to eat. At this stage the wings were drooped and the neck and legs were long and scrawny. Finally the chicks were unable to stand, and lay on one side with outstretched wings as if utterly exhausted. The throat and mouth seemed normal, and at no time were there any indications of pain.

Post mortem disclosed the following: The chicks were quite emaciated; the crop was empty; the intestines were pale and for the greater part empty, without indications of ulceration or congestion; the liver was pale with the exception of a few patches and streaks which were of a darkened color; the spleen, lungs, and kidneys seemed normal, as far as macroscopic appearances were concerned. In stained sections of the tissues small slender bacilli were occasionally found. The bacilli were not grouped, but were few and scattered through the sections.

Inoculations were made in agar and bouillon from the blood of the liver, kidneys, and spleen. Growths were generally obtained from the liver, and once from the spleen. Subsequent examinations showed the growths to be pure and to contain the same organism in every case.

While at Winona, Ind., in the summer of 1900, the same writer had his attention called to a disease which was rapidly exterminating the young chickens on three adjoining farms. Of the first lot of forty chicks all died but five. They were attacked apparently between the ages of one and four weeks. Of the sick only one recovered, making the mortality about 87.5 per cent. Another brood began to show symptoms of the same disease when hardly a week old; following this, two new broods were seized, and in a short time the epidemic spread over the three farms, affecting several hundred chicks and causing a mortality of approximately eighty per cent. Grown chickens and hogs which were freely exposed remained unaffected.

The symptoms corresponded closely to those of the first epidemic, with the possible exception that in the second and larger epidemic the progress of the disease was more rapid and the chicks seemed to be feverish and thirsty. The latter situation may have been due largely to the extreme heat which then prevailed. From the liver of the affected chicks a bacillus

was obtained which in every way resembled the organism found in the original chicks, except that its development in artificial media was more rapid than that of the former bacillus.

Both of the above epidemics occurred among hen hatched and hen reared chicks. A third epidemic which proved to be of the same character as those already mentioned was brought to the attention of the junior writer of this paper (Harvey). It occurred in the spring of 1907 in the northwestern part of Connecticut and among chicks that were hatched in incubators and cared for in artificial brooders.

The first hatch consisted of forty-six chicks. The disease showed itself in a week to ten days, and of the entire number twelve were left at the end of the fourth week. The second brood consisted of fifty-five chicks. The disease made itself known in about twelve days, and after the sixteenth day twenty remained alive. In the third brood there were left thirty out of a total of forty-five. Of the one hundred and forty-six chicks that were exposed to the disease, eighty-four died, the mortality being almost sixty per cent.

The brooder in which the chicks of broods one and two had been kept was thoroughly disinfected with formalin vapor and whitewashed. The next hatch which was placed in the brooder did not acquire the disease. A second contaminated brooder was treated in the same manner, and the chicks which were placed in it after the disinfection also escaped infection.

The symptoms and post mortem appearances were essentially the same as in previous epidemics, and the disease ran the same course, although the mortality was not so great. An organism was again obtained in a pure condition from the liver and spleen, and on one or two occasions from the heart's blood. The organism was a bacillus which in every way (where comparative tests were made) resembled those of the former epidemics. We have no hesitation in regarding the bacteria obtained from the three widely separated sources as one and the same micro-organism, and they will therefore be referred to and described as such.

General considerations.—The evidences gathered by us from the three widely separated epidemics of "white diarrhea" appear to us to be conclusive proof that the disease is caused by a specific micro-organism whose characteristics we have already described. In comparing the organism with other known bacteria we found it to be a distinct species, though in many respects it bore a close resemblance to certain other micro-organisms. We may safely say that in so far as its general morphological and cultural characteristics are concerned it belongs to the colon typhoid-hog cholera group. That it differs from each of the members of this group is easily seen from the facts recorded. It closely resembles the hog cholera bacillus in its ability to produce gas in dextrose and mannite media; but the latter is actively motile and causes a strong alkaline reaction in milk, whereas the chick disease bacillus is non-motile, or practically so, and never turns litmus milk blue.

We have but little evidence regarding the natural mode of infection. The few results obtained, however, indicate that the disease may spread from chick to chick through feces contaminated food or drinking water. When an epidemic is started it rapidly spreads, and a farm which once becomes infected has as a rule great difficulty in suppressing or preventing recurrences of the disease. In some instances it has been known to make its visitations annually for at least two or three years.

The various explanations that have been offered as to the possible cause of "white diarrhea" need not be wholly incorrect. It is quite probable that faulty feeding.

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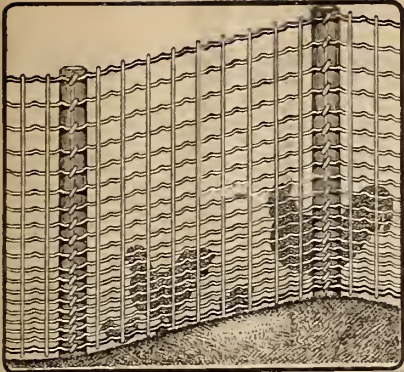
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uneven temperature, and poor ventilation play a more or less important part in the production of the disease, in that they lower the vitality of the chicks and thus make them an easier prey to infection; but these things alone are unable to cause epidemic "white diarrhea."

The immediate source of the specific organism in new epidemics must still remain a matter of speculation. Whether the egg becomes infected before it is laid, or the infection starts after the laying, during the incubation period, or whether the organism gets into the chick after it is hatched, are important questions that still need solution.

We are inclined to the belief that incomplete absorption of the yolk is in no way responsible for the disease, but that it is a result of it. While in several instances we found the yolk to be completely absorbed, it also frequently happened that the absorption was apparently complete.

"White diarrhea" does not occur exclusively among incubator chicks. In two of the epidemics studied by us the disease occurred among chicks that were not only

hen hatched, but also cared for by hens. In such cases a lowering of vitality may be caused by cold and wet weather at the time the chicks are being hatched, or soon after they come from the shells; or extreme heat may be responsible as well. In fact these two conditions prevailed during the earlier part of the two epidemics; in the first it was cold and wet, while in the second the weather was unusually warm. After an epidemic has once begun, however, it spreads, as a rule, no matter what the conditions are.

Thorough cleansing and disinfection of incubators and brooders, as well as enclosures in which the chickens are kept, are the best safeguards against further trouble from "white diarrhea," as we have shown on two occasions. Everything that is done to remove or kill the specific micro-organism secures the chicks to that extent against the disease. On the other hand, the vitality of the chick should be preserved as well as possible by giving it proper food and every consideration which is necessary in helping it to resist infection when exposed to it.

Thinks Parent Stock to Blame for White Diarrhea in Chicks.

EDITOR FARM-POULTRY:—Let me give the readers of FARM-POULTRY my experience with that trouble for the past four years, commencing with the spring of 1905.

The first lot of chicks I had hatch consisted of 163. I put them in brooders that I had used for five or six years with the best of success, raising some years 95 per cent of all I put into them. In the spring of 1903 I put in my brooders 212, and raised 209 to maturity; but in 1905, out of that 163 all of them died but 50 before the first ten days.

I gave those fifty to a friend. He put them with hens. Only four lived to maturity. I hatched out some more, and they went the same way. I hatched in all that spring 400, and only 4 out of the entire lot lived to maturity. I thought that I had overheated them, but I could not understand how I could do that with every lot. Some told me that there must be some disease in my brooder house. I put but little stock in that. It did not occur to me that it was the white diarrhea, for I had never seen a case of that disease. Well, it was late in the spring, and I gave up in despair.

During the following winter I made four outdoor brooders the same style as the Cyphers, thinking that I might have better luck with those. I started hatching in the spring of 1906 about the first of April. The first lot I had hatch was a little over 100. I put them in my outdoor brooders. About the fourth or fifth day they commenced to die, and they all went the same way that the others did.

What to I did not know, but I thought I would try once more. The results were the same. I hatched that spring a little over 300, and just 46 lived to maturity.

I made up my mind to quit, but when the spring of 1907 came I thought I would try again. I filled up a small incubator. Sixty-six chicks hatched. A friend whom I will call Mr. G., wanted to buy them. I told him that he could have them for ten cents each, but he must take his chances on raising them. He put them in a Cyphers brooder. In just one week only four were living.

I filled up the machine again; got 84. In less than ten days only 8 were alive. I gave them to Mr. G., and made up my mind to quit for good.

I told Mr. G. that if he would get some eggs from some good stock I would hatch them for him. He bought 200 eggs. I put them in my incubator; 124 chicks hatched. He put them in the same brooder that he put those that he bought of me, without even cleaning out the sand, and he raised all but two or three.

That set me to thinking that the trouble was with my stock, and I made up my mind that I would try once more.

So this spring I bought 200 eggs that did not prove to be very good; only 74 chicks hatched. They are four weeks old, and I have lost but one.

I could not resist trying once more to see if I could raise chicks from my stock, so I put 150 eggs in a small incubator, tested down to 123, and 99 hatched. They are now a little more than a week old, and I have lost about one-half of them. Some of those that are living appear to be all right, and some are rather weak.

Now what has been the trouble with all of the chicks that came from my stock? I think that I can answer that question myself. White diarrhea—nothing more nor less. What is the cause? To my mind it is in the stock, and not in the hatching or brooding. I have run incubators for the last twelve years, and never had a case of white diarrhea until 1905. Some years I have hatched more than 1,000 chicks for other people, they furnishing the eggs, and not one of them died from white diarrhea.

In the spring of 1906 I sold 150 chicks to a friend whom I will call Mr. S. About one-half of them came from my stock, the others from eggs I bought. They were hatched in two incubators. The machines sat in the same room, and were the same make.

Of the chicks that came from eggs laid by my stock 95% died the first week. Those that came from the eggs that I bought all lived and did well. They were put in two brooders, so that there was no chance for mistakes as to which ones died.

The first thing that I notice wrong about chicks that come from my stock is that about the third day they appear to be sleepy, and the discharge is a whitish color, and quite thin, and in a short time they are dead.

One of the poultrymen in this place thought the trouble was in the brooding. I hatched out a batch of 84, and gave them to him. He gave them the very best care possible, but did not raise 10% of them. He has changed his mind.

I have one question to ask those who think white diarrhea is caused by faulty incubation or brooding. It is this: Why should all the chicks that I hatched from eggs laid by my stock die, while those I hatched for other people (they furnishing the eggs) live?

Last fall I called on a man in the town of Greenfield, N. H. He told me that in the spring of 1906 he lost more than 2,000 chicks from white diarrhea. The fact was he could not raise over 5% or 10% of the chicks he hatched from eggs laid by his stock, but could raise 90% of the chicks he hatched from eggs he bought.

Now, readers of FARM-POULTRY, if you had the same experience that I have had could you come to any other conclusion than this: That the white diarrhea is caused by some trouble in the parent stock?

W. T. R.

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The Women Who Should Strike.

(Continued from page 304)

mistress of the house should firmly decline to have anything to do with chickens. It is cruel to allow fowls to stay in damp quarters, with lice eating them up, or to try to raise little chicks for the rats to feast on. If the rats and stray cats must be tolerated, let the chicken business go.

Sometimes striking is the most effective way to have matters remedied. One farmer was shocked to learn that his wife had sold every one of her forty scrub fowls, after waging an unequal battle for several years, but she calmly explained that she was tired of trying to accomplish anything without a little help. In just two days that poultry yard was abandoned for a clean piece of sod, the filthy old coops that could not be cleaned were

burned, and new ones that could be lifted off the floors, or placed right on the ground, substituted, and there was a general waking up on the premises. Then the mistress of the house stood out for a few pure bred fowls, and gradually worked her way up to being a successful poultry raiser. She might have worried along in the old fashion for years without accomplishing anything, but that one decisive move brought victory. If more ladies would demand as much system and business method for the poultry yard as for other industries on the farm, there would be less work for them and greater profits. Be sure that the people who talk about "chickens eating their heads off" are the ones who feed rats and vermin along with a lot of scrub fowls. And when you do strike, hold out until everything is ship-shape, if you care for success.

HILDA RICHMOND.

MARKET REVIEW.

BOSTON.

Boston Produce Market Report.

Eggs.

Receipts today, 4,617 cases; same time last year, 5,376 cases; receipts 6 days, 23,643 cases; same time last year, 24,428 cases.

Receipts are moderate, and we are having a good, firm market for choice fresh stock suitable for best trade. Fancy candled northwestern are firm at 20c., and special marks are bringing more. There are hardly any western coming good enough to bring over 19c., however, and a large proportion have to go for less, as to quality and condition. Dirties are hard to place unless much better than the average. Fancy henney hold firm at 20c.

Quotations at Mark.

Fancy henney.....	26.00
Me., Vt., N. H., extras.....	23.00
Me., Vt., N. H., common to good.....	18.00
Northwestern, graded and candled.....	20.00
Ind., Ills. and N. Ohio, selected.....	19.00
Other choice western.....	17.00
Western common to good.....	16.00
Western dirties.....	12.00

Dressed Poultry.

Receipts today, 538 packages; same time last year, 309 packages; receipts 6 days, 1,702 packages; same week last year, 1,941 packages.

Western iced fowls are in good fair supply today, and are having a moderate sale at 12 1/4c., as to size and quality. Western broilers quite plenty, but generally too small to bring over 20c. The small lots of turkeys arriving meet with a ready sale. Old cocks steady.

Choice eastern fowls steady at 15c. Ducks offering freely at 14 1/2c. Broilers in full supply, and have to be extra large and choice to exceed 2c.

Fresh Killed Northern and Eastern—

Fowls, choice.....	15.00
Fowls, common to good.....	13.00
Green ducks, per lb.....	14.00

Nearby Broilers—

Choice 2 1/2 to 4 lbs. to pair, 1 lb.....	23.00
Pigeons, choice, 1/2 doz.....	\$1.50
Pigeons, common to good.....	75¢
Squabs, 1/2 dozen.....	1.75

Western ice-packed—

Turkeys, 1 lb.....	17.00
Fowls, choice, large.....	14.00
Fowls, common to good.....	13.00
Broilers, 1 lb.....	20.00
Old cocks, 1 lb.....	9.00

Western frozen—

Chickens, choice, soft roasting.....	17.00
Chickens, fair to good.....	14.00
Broilers, fancy 1 lb.....	18.00
Fowls, choice.....	14.00
Fowls, common to good.....	12.00
Ducks, per lb.....	12.00
Geese, per lb.....	10.00

Live Poultry.

Eastern receipts were quite liberal today. Fowls hold steady, but chickens are a little slow and have to be extra large to exceed 15c.

Fowls, 1 lb.....	12.00
Spring chickens, 1 lb.....	18.00
Roosters, 1 lb.....	8.00

NEW YORK.

From the Producers' Price Current.

Eggs.

State, Pennsylvania and nearby fresh eggs move out fair at unchanged prices. We quote: Selected white, fancy, 28¢; do., good to choice, 22¢; do., brown and mixed, fancy, 24¢; do., good to choice, 21¢; do., lower grades, 18¢.

N. Y. Mercantile Exchange Official Quotations.	
Fresh gathered, extras, 1/2 doz.....	1.24
Fresh gathered, extra firsts.....	2.00
Fresh gathered, firsts.....	1.81
Fresh gathered, seconds.....	1.71
Fresh gathered, thirds.....	1.51
Dirties, fresh gathered, No. 1 candled.....	1.15
Dirties, fresh gathered, No. 2.....	1.12
Dirties, inferior.....	8.00
Checks, fresh gathered, fair to prime.....	12.00
Checks, inferior.....	6.00

To say, when writing advertisers, "SAW AD. IN FARM-POULTRY," will benefit you — please them — and help us.

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Classified advertisements only will be inserted in these columns, and no display other than the initial word or name allowed. No advertisement containing less than TWO lines will be accepted. All parts of lines will be charged as one full line. No limit to number of lines ad. may contain. An advertiser can divide his copy and have an ad. under as many headings as he wishes. Cost of classified advertising will be at a uniform rate of 25 cents per line, each and every insertion; no less price per line for any number of lines or times ordered. Copy will be changed as often as desired without extra cost. About seven ordinary words make a line. Initials and figures count as words. We classify the headings in alphabetical order the value of which arrangement to the advertiser is at once apparent, enabling the buyer to immediately locate advertisements of any particular kind in which he may be interested.

BABY CHICKS.

20000 BARRED Rock baby chicks, largest exclusive shipper of baby Rocks, \$4.50 per 50; \$8.50 per 100, quick delivery; free circular. R. H. Loveand, Lamar, Clinton Co., Penna.

BABY chicks wanted, few hundred, any age or variety, pullets preferred, Buff Plymouth Rock, terms, Gidman, R. F. D., Mousey, Rockland Co., N. Y.

BREEDING STOCK.

BUFFINGTON will sell 1 cock and 4 hens for \$5 of the following varieties, Buff Plymouth Rock, Buff Wyandotte, Buff Leghorn, and Columbian Wyandottes. Eggs from above varieties \$1 for 15. Rowland G. Buffington, Somerset, Mass.

BUCKEYES.

BUCKEYE eggs half price rest of season; stock cheap; cir. L. T. Place, Meshoppen, Pa.

CHARCOAL.

POULTRY Charcoal, only \$1 per bbl.; \$4.50 in 5 bbl. lots; coarse for hoppers, fine for mash, chick size. C. B. Charcoal Co., R. F. D. No. 3, Bridgewater, Mass.

FOODS AND REMEDIES.

133 VALUABLE RECIPES FOR POULTRY FOODS, Condition powders, Remedies, Insecticides and other necessities compiled in my formulary. Price \$1 postpaid. Send me your name for free circular. Dr. P. T. Woods, Box F, Middleton, Mass.

GAMES.

PIT Game fowls, Pit Bull Terrier and Boston Terrier dogs. J. P. Colby, Newburyport, Mass.

INCUBATORS AND BROODERS.

3 INCUBATORS and several brooders, nearly new. S. C. Ellenwood, Milford, N. H.

JAVAS.

BLACK JAVAS, yearling hens and April hatched cockerels for sale. Circular free. C. A. Stevens, G. M. Mathews, Brocton, N. Y.

LEGHORNS.

SINGLE COMB BROWN Leghorn eggs for sale, hatching, from the best winners at New York, St. Louis, and Jamestown exposition, Chicago, and many other shows, \$5 per 13; \$15 per 50. Grove Hill Poultry Yards, Box 401, Waltham, Mass.

CHEAP 200 S. C. W. Leghorn hens, raised in 1897. C. W. Wenborne, Brocton, N. Y.

ROSE Comb Brown cock's from strong layers, 75c. and \$1 each. Carman, Margaretville, N. Y.

30 NICE S. C. Br. Leghorn yearling hens, \$20. Quick. R. Hill, Seneca Falls, N. Y.

500 S. C. WHITE LEGHORNS, hens, pullets, cocks and cockerels; heavy laying strain, large fine stock. C. A. Stevens, Box 3, Ransomville, N. Y.

SPECIAL White Leghorn sale, the kind that lay, with and weigh. Hens 75c. — \$1 each; pullets 2 1/2 to 3 months, 50c.; 3 cockerels \$1. Write me. Emory E. Banks, Creekside Place, E. Pembroke, N. Y.

LICE PAINT.

ONCE A YEAR LICE PAINT will keep houses, brooders, etc., free from mites if used once a year; 50c. gal. Woodsdale Poultry Plant, Summit, N. I.

MINORCAS.

"MINORCAS, of Every Comb and Color," is the title of the very latest book on this variety. The author is Mr. Geo. H. Northrup, known far and wide as one of the foremost breeders and judges in the country. This well written, well illustrated book, by one of the greatest authorities, will prove valuable and instructive to all lovers of Minorcas. Mailed postage prepaid on receipt of price, 50 cts. Farm-Poultry Pub. Co., Boston, Mass.

1000 Minorcas, best quality, 25 pair cat. Geo. H. Northrup, R. F. D. 2, Racineville, N. Y.

BLACK MINORCAS eggs, \$3 per sitting. R. Story, 187 Arlington Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.

ORPINGTONS.

ANNUAL SALE CHAMPION BLACK ORPINGTONS, including all our prize winners of last winter, at one-fourth price, to make room for young stock. Birds on approval; satisfaction guaranteed. Foxhurst Farm, Lime Rock, Conn.

PIGEONS.

UNVARNISHED facts about squab raising, for stamp. W. G. Todd, East Bridgewater, Mass.

HOMING Pigeons, \$1.50 per pair; would exchange for Brahma or Plymouth Rock pullets. E. M. Ingalls, Florist, 43 Whiting St., Lynn, Mass.

PLYMOUTH ROCKS.

RUFF Rocks, winners of 200 premiums; solid color. Stock, eggs. Dr. Coolidge, Bristol, N. H.

BUFF Rocks exclusively; fine birds. Solid in color. T. D. Schenck, Woodstock, N. H.

BUFF Rocks. Stock and eggs at reduced rates after June 15th. Dr. Coolidge, Bristol, N. H.

NOYES' RUFF ROCKS, 2 fine yearling golden trios, \$20. Cock (as chl.) 2d Boston pen, 70¢, clear buff, \$10. Best eggs, \$1.50. Box 275, New London, Conn.

POULTRY PRINTING.

POULTRY POST CARDS, beautiful illustrations, 15c. per dozen, assorted or all one kind, 100 with your advt. \$1.50; \$3.50; sample free; other printing for poultrymen reasonable and up to date. Fluk & Sons, 14 South Fifth St., Philadelphia, Pa.

RHODE ISLAND REDS.

EGGS from Shove's Rose and Single Comb Rhode I. Reds and Houdans, \$2 for 13; \$5 for 40; have been breeding them for 6 last ten years. Also Pekin ducks and Homer pigeons. Be sure and send for circular. A few good birds for sale. D. P. Shove, Fall River, Mass.

HOUSE ROCK POULTRY FARM, R. I. Beds won Boston, 1898, 1st cock 1, 2, 3 & chl.; 2d pullet; 3d pen. Rose Combs. Send stamp for mating list. C. M. Bryant, prop., P. O. Box 6, Wollastou, Mass.

ROSE COMB RHODE ISLAND REDS. George Howard, Jr., South Bound Brook, N. J.

2000 RHODE Island Reds; stock for sale; Elmwood Poultry Farm, Box A, Bridgewater, Mass.

600 SINGLE COMB R. I. RED chickens, 6 weeks to 4 months old; great chance to start with strong hens hatched stock; the lot 40c. each; 20 nice yearling hens, the lot 85c. each. E. A. James, So. Sherborn, Mass.

240 EGG strain Rose and Single R. I. Reds, fall and winter eggs \$4.50, \$6 and \$15 per 100. My Reds lay right through 40 degrees. Eleven years a breeder. E. S. Piner, North Haven, Maine.

FEW choice single and Rose Comb males \$5 each; females \$3 each. Clark Farm, Concord, Mass.

WANTED.

LIVE POULTRY WANTED. Highest market price and immediate returns. Hens, chickens, ducks and geese. Send for shipping instructions. No commission. The Park & Pollard Co., Live Poultry Dept., 46 Canal St., Boston, Mass.

POULTRYMAN, married, 10 years experience with broilers, ducks, and capons, would make change. Come and see my work. A. references. N. Y. Z., care F-P.

MARRIED man would like position as manager ou poultry plant. Best references from last place. D. A. Valler, Chiltonville, Plymouth, Mass.

WANTED, a man to work in a poultry plant. He must be honest, willing, of good habits, and not addicted to the use of liquor. State if married or single. Apply to Experiment Station, Kingston, R. I.

WHITEWASH MACHINES.

BROWER'S \$9 machine, does 5 men's work. Free catalogue. W. J. Brower, mfr, Springfield, Ill.

WYANDOTTES.

BUSINESS W. Wyandottes. Stock for sale; trap nests used. Michael K. Boyer, Hammon, N. J.

WHITE Wyandottes. The Triumph strain has a national reputation for beauty, utility, and especially for heavy laying of large brown eggs. A few extremely fancy cockerels for sale. They are farm raised, large, vigorous, shapely and white. Also a few R. I. Red cockerels, bred on another farm. They are from a heavy laying strain, and will please you. W. E. Mack, West Woodstock, Vt.

SILVER Wyandottes, winners of more first prizes in the leading state and national fairs in America. Am now offering 50 per cent of my breeders for sale at low prices, as I shall not sell any more eggs for hatching. Will have young stock for the fall grade that will win. Also Boston Terriers of a high grade. J. C. Jodrey, Box A, Danvers, Mass.

1000 Col. cks, hens, c's and pullets for \$1 ea. Prof. John Evans, Arlington Park, R. I.

YOUNG CHICKS.

WHY WASTE MONEY over "eggs for hatchling," fussy hens, germ scorching incubators, or broiler baked "half" chicks, when you can buy young pullets and cockerels, strong and vigorous, six to eight weeks old and upwards, full feathered, nearly grown, and past the danger line? Pullets almost ready to lay; cockerels nearly broiler size; sure to live and thrive. Better values for your investment, and special values through July, August, and September. Mated for breeding, from unrelated stock, if desired. Circulars free. Brookfield Farms, Salem, N. Y.

The Editor's Question Box.

In this department the editor will answer miscellaneous questions on poultry topics, and all special requests for his personal views which can be answered briefly. Inquiries will be answered as promptly as possible and as nearly as may be in the order in which they are received.

Selecting Layers. (H. E. N.)—"Can you tell me any method or system of telling laying from non-laying hens? I know I must have a lot that are not laying, and I have no trap nests and no way of telling. If there is a method will you kindly tell me where it can be bought?"

An experienced and observant poultryman can tell usually with reasonable certainty which hens in a flock are laying or about to lay, and which are not. The comb and the actions of the hen are quite reliable indications on this point. There are so-called systems in which the principal point to be observed in determining the facts is the width of the space between pelvic bones. This is an ancient test, and not reliable.

Determining Sex of Young Chicks. (H. E. N.)—"Can you tell me a good method of determining the sex of young chicks?"

It can be done only by observation of sexual characteristics. An experienced poultryman can tell much more accurately than one not familiar with the appearance of chickens at different stages of development, though in some cases the sex seems uncertain until the bird is quite full grown. The features of most importance are those which especially distinguish the male, the size of comb, and the character and color of tail and hackle. The general color is of importance in varieties in which certain sex colors are established by lines of breeding, as in Barred Rocks, where the males usually come of lighter color in the down than pullets of the same breeding.

Poisoned Chicks. (W. H. S.)—"I wish to make inquiry in regard to whether the cinquefoil weed is harmful to chickens. I moved about 200 chickens some two weeks ago to a vacant lot which contains some 8000 feet of land. They were about 7 or 8 weeks old mostly. Some older ones were not affected. It was a grass plot, and had been recently mowed. There is considerable cinquefoil, and also some kind of grass, a specimen of which I enclose. They soon commenced dying, although they had been healthy before. One lot of 50 I took from 100, and left the other 50 where they were, and none of those left have been affected. They were taken all at once, drooping, eyes closed most of the time. After a little would stretch their necks out first to one side and then the other, gaping; would fall down, stretching their legs out, after which some of them die soon, but the most of them live one day or more in a mumped condition, unable to eat or notice anything. Only one has recovered. I buried 10 in one day, after which I confined them in racks 16 ft. long and 4 ft. wide, attached to the colony houses, about 50 in each, and for a few days I found none sick or dead. For the last three mornings I have had one each morning. The rest of the flocks are well and hearty. By its stopping so sudden after confining them, I came to the conclusion that they must get something to eat that caused it. Although I am unable to tell why it should come back even in a lesser degree. I have cut open the crops of several, but can discover nothing wrong. In the most of them there seems to be no bowel trouble, but in some the droppings are white and about the consistency of cream, and are somewhat pasted on to them. In about all the cases there is a brownish dirty looking fluid running from the mouth."

The trouble in this case is probably due to poisonous material deposited somewhere upon the lot. That turns out to be the cause in nearly all the cases of this kind reported that are carefully followed up. I never heard that the weed men-

tioned was injurious to fowls. The grass of which sample was enclosed, I do not know, but it is quite unlikely that any vegetable growth is responsible for the trouble. People have a habit of dumping things they don't want about their own premises on vacant lots in their neighborhood. I would watch the chicks closely, also examine the premises thoroughly, to see whether there is anything poisonous deposited where the chicks can get it.

Keeping Beef Scraps Before Chicks. (A. D.)—"I have just read your reply to J. R. H., in the Question Box of the issue of June 15, in which you state that the chicken trouble enquired about probably arises from too large a use of beef scraps in the food. This leads me to ask your opinion in regard to the plan of keeping scraps before the chickens all the time, a thing which some advise."

When beef scraps are kept before chicks all the time they are not likely to overeat of them if well fed otherwise. Most of the troubles from excess of beef scrap develop where it is mixed in the mash, and in taking as much bulk of food as the appetite seems to call for the chicks take too large quantities of beef scrap.

Chicks Have Liver Trouble. (J. J. W.)—"I have 100 Leghorn chicks six weeks old that were doing nicely until two weeks ago, when some commenced to droop and refused to eat, get very thin and die. On opening some I find the liver clouded with dark yellow patches. Have been fed on dry mash consisting of two parts corn meal, one part bran, one part middlings before them all the time; also beef scrap, grit, charcoal, fed the same way. This method of feeding was started at three days old; also fed sprouted oats and some green stuff twice a day."

Whether the liver symptoms described are the principal symptoms, or the liver trouble develops as a result of something else, is uncertain, but I incline to the opinion that the liver trouble is the principal thing, and that it is due to heavy feeding—a too concentrated ration, possibly due also in part to overcrowding and lack of exercise. The correspondent writes from New York city. He does not give any particulars as to the history of the chicks, or the conditions under which they are kept. His statements suggest other possible causes of the difficulty. Nowadays, when a man tells of troubles with 100 or 200 or 50 chicks, we are apt to think at once that he bought "day old chicks." In such a case there might be some cause of trouble back of the time he began to care for them. The ration Mr. W. uses is one that might give good results if all other conditions were right, but is too concentrated for ordinary use.

Soft Shelled Eggs. (W. V. F.)—"I have a hen that every night or two drops what I suppose is a soft egg on the board under the roosts. There is no shell or skin, and hardly any yellow, almost all transparent like white of a raw egg. Sometimes she drops it in the run during the day time. Monday she laid an egg with a soft shell, and I also found in the nest what looked like a piece of dried tallow about the size of my small finger, rather rough. Tuesday and Wednesday she tried several times to lay an egg without success. Wednesday morning I found another soft egg on the roosting board, also some in the run that she must have dropped after 7 o'clock Tuesday evening.

She is a fine big healthy looking bird. Thinking it was caused by being too fat, I have fairly starved her for two weeks. I feed mash in morning, wheat at noon, and cracked corn at night. Always have oyster shell, grit, charcoal, and wheat before her in hoppers. Would there be any harm in eating this hen, as she seems perfectly healthy otherwise?"

The dropping of soft shelled eggs is due to a disordered condition of the ovary or oviduct, (in this case both appear to be affected), or to a general laxative condition in which, while there seems nothing wrong with the oviduct itself, the hen is unable to retain the egg until the shell is completed. Unless a hen is especially valued for breeding purposes, the best thing to do is to kill her. Whether she may be eaten, is a point best determined by inspection after the fowl is killed and drawn. If a very bad condition of the entrails, or any part of them, is discovered, I would not eat the hen.

To Cut Spurs. (A. C. P.)—"I have a fine Wyandotte cock whose spurs curve downward. As a result all the hens in his pen are bare of feathers on the back, and some of them have been badly gashed, necessitating my killing two. Will you kindly advise me if I had best remove the spurs, and if so, how?"

The spurs should be trimmed, and may be cut as close to the legs as desired. Take a fine saw, such as is used to cut metal with, and saw the spur off. If it bleeds put on powdered chalk or sulphate of iron. In cutting it is best not to go closer to the leg than one-half to three-eighths of an inch. After the cutting, the edges may be smoothed with a small file.

Line Breeding. (P. H. M.)—"Where can I get full directions for line breeding? Do you think this is the best way to breed Buff Orpingtons to obtain good specimens? If not, what method is the best? Last spring I bought some White Holland turkey eggs, and hatched out twelve turkeys, raising nine of these. Just before Thanksgiving one of these began to mope; would not eat, and grew very thin. In a few days she was dead. A week after another was taken the same way, and now

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the largest and best gobbler in the flock is acting the same. Can you tell me what it is? They have free range over grass land. In pleasant weather they roost in a tree near the house; in stormy weather we drive them into the barn. They seem to be taken very suddenly, being smart one day and sick the next. I feed them wheat and corn. The gobbler's weight is fifteen pounds, was hatched in July; never had turkeys before."

Articles have from time to time appeared in most of the poultry papers giving full directions for line breeding with charts, etc., and there will be no difficulty in finding them.

I have personally bred poultry for over thirty years without having ever read one of these articles through, or ever attempting to follow the system they map out. In fact, I do not believe this possible. Theories are all right on paper, but in practice they generally go wrong. There are too many uncertainties connected with the breeding of fancy poultry to map out your course for more than one year ahead.

Line breeding, after all is said and written, simply resolves itself into getting as near an ideal bird as you can, and breeding progeny very close to it. That is, breeding in and in as long as the results are good and the stock is strong. In the solid colored varieties this can be done more fully than in parti-colored varieties. In parti-colored varieties two matings are usually necessary, and then two model birds are therefore essential. That is, you must have your male that gives as near a perfect exhibition male as you possibly can procure, and females to mate with this bird that are as closely related to him or some other male of nearly equal quality as you can obtain. In breeding exhibition females the reverse is true. You will acquire in some way as near an ideal female as you can, and males related to her or some other female that is as near ideal as possible. In this way you start your lines.

In solid colored varieties, however, the approximately perfect male and female may be mated together in most instances. Of course it is not wise to mate such together if there is one pronounced defect, and both have the same.

The trouble you are having with turkeys is a common one, and is generally credited to liver disorders, and is known as black head, and a difficult thing to treat when once started.

To raise turkeys successfully, people must have a large range, and the turkeys must not be fed too heavily, but allowed to pick up wild berries, insects, bugs, etc. People who raise them successfully claim they have the best success when they feed them very little if anything.

Poultry House Plan. (J. A. O.)—"I would be pleased to have your opinion of a poultry house I have thought of building, and would appreciate any suggestions. It is to extend as far as wanted, it being made up of units, and in each unit or pen would keep twenty-five birds. Each unit is 10 x 10 ft., facing south, with double yards, and an apple tree in each yard. I would like to know what a good length would be for each yard. I intend to sow them down alternately to oats, rape, or the like. The house is to be set on posts 2 ft. from ground, and have double floors with hatch for the hens to go beneath the house to scratch in in winter time and bad weather. The roosts are at the back of house, and nest boxes at the east side, 2 ft. from floor, and hoppers and water fountain opposite. The front of house is to be boarded up 2 ft., and have wire the rest of way, with cloth panel to put on in bad weather. A door opens into first and all units on the west and toward the south side. What would be the best height, counting cost of construction 4½ ft. back and 5½ ft. high front? A hole for hens to go out and in is in the front and back of each unit; partitions between to be boarded up or wired. Which is best?"

"I have been selling R. I. Red cockerels that were hatched March 1st, since June 17th. They dressed from 4 to 4½ lbs. each. The pullets to these cockerels commenced laying exactly July 1st, but have only got a few eggs yet."

The feature of a space 2 ft. high beneath the house is one I hesitate to approve; would only approve it any time in isolated houses where it appeared clearly to be an

advantage. On any site suitable for a poultry house there should be no need of elevating the floor of the house. I think it would be found better to use the additional lumber required for a double floor in sides and roof, giving greater floor area on the main floor.

The dimensions given are smaller than advisable for the units in a system of the kind contemplated; 12 x 12 would be better, and as it is always desirable to get as much width as possible in yards, 12 x 14 might be still better.

The number of birds it is proposed to keep in each flock is too large for a 10 x 10 section—about right for 12 x 12. With 25 birds in a flock in yards 10 or 12 feet wide, little grass would grow unless the yards were of great length. Even with alternate yards, each yard should be of good length, not less than a hundred feet. For such narrow yards apple trees will not be satisfactory. After the first few years they will be much too close together; in fact, with yards so narrow the only way to give even small trees room as they grow is to arrange the rows so that trees in adjoining yards will be at different distances from the building. Nearly all the narrow runs I have seen planted to fruit trees have had the trees much too close together.

The height suggested is too low for the convenience of the poultryman. I will have something special on that point in September F.-I.

Caterpillars. (M. B. D.)—"I have a hen now in her third laying summer that began to sit round and mope. I gave a teaspoonful of castor oil, whereupon her discharges were a bright grass green with some white. Discharges are a little more normal, but comb bad, also eyes, feathers unkempt. Their run is near a crab apple tree, and the hens eat a great many browntail and gypsy caterpillars."

I don't think that as a rule hens will be injured by the caterpillars in such quantities as they will eat them. This is the case of an old hen. The weather has been extremely hot and dry, and with no other trouble in the flock I would say on general principles that the trouble was due to diminishing vitality and heat, these probably combining to put the hen out of condition. It will generally be observed that as hens grow older they become more subject to attacks of this kind.

Teaching Chicks to Roost. (T. I.)—"I had about 200 chicks hatched in incubators. I have lost a great many by their flocking together instead of taking their roost. Will you kindly let me know what to do?"

When chicks do not take to the roost at a suitable age of their own accord, they must be taught to do so. The easiest way to do this is to put with them two or three hens or older chicks that will roost. The others will as a rule gradually follow their example. If this cannot be done, begin by placing a board 8 or 10 or more inches wide close to the wall, where the chicks sit, and just far enough from the ground so that they cannot get under it. The chicks will naturally get up on the board, and if they have been accustomed to crowding in the corner, the tendency will be to extend the group along the board. A little time given to helping this movement along will be well spent. After the chicks get into the habit of sitting on the board gradually raise it until a foot or so from the floor, and bring it out from the wall far enough so that if they crowd back they will fall off. They will soon learn to stay on the board. Then take the board away and put up one or two flat roosts, 4 in. wide. They may be a little awkward on these at first, but will soon be roosting all right. The small light breeds may be allowed to roost (they rarely need teaching) as soon as they feel so inclined; but the heavier ones are better on the floor until their bones are hardened somewhat.

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New Book on Wyandottes.

The Inland Poultry Journal Co., Indianapolis, Ind., has just issued "Wyandottes in Colors, and How to Judge Them." The text is by Theo. Hewes, illustrations by I. W. Burgess. All varieties of Wyandottes are illustrated abundantly, and the history of each interspersed with characteristic comments as to the facts and progress of development of the variety precedes the detailed instructions as to judging the variety.

In the historical matter, Mr. Hewes, while conceding other sections of the country have some claims to credit for the production of these varieties, seems to systematically avoid mention of the names of eastern originators and promoters, and to exaggerate the influence of some of the western breeders. For the rest we think Wyandotte breeders will find the book a most valuable help in everything pertaining to the subject treated. The price of the work is \$1. FARM-POULTRY will fill any orders received for this book.

Hall's Mammoth Hatcher

The Greatest Advance of Modern Times in the PROGRESS and PROFIT of Poultry Raising



Looking back we see first the hen—the natural incubator. Next, the small hot box, otherwise called incubator. Then the higher class incubating machines, and now to cap the climax of man's ingenuity comes the Hall Hatcher, a wonderful invention with which you can hatch six thousand to fifteen thousand eggs as easily as you can a hundred.

We mean just what we say when we tell you that the Hall Hatcher is the ideal method for economy and profit. It is so far ahead of the ordinary incubator in meeting all the requirements of modern poultry work that there is positively no comparison. We stand right back of every claim which we make for this system, and any wide-awake poultryman who will investigate will never be satisfied to put up with the old-fashioned, troublesome and uncertain methods any longer than he is obliged to.

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The Hall Incubator Company, manufacturers of these hatching machines, also brooding systems and hot water heaters for brooder houses that excel anything of the kind ever offered to the trade, gives unqualified references as to its responsibility. We make no claims for our equipment that are not borne out by its actual performance, and we court the most thorough investigation. Bear in mind we are not promoters, but manufacturers of an actual product which we offer for sale. With our equipment you can hatch for yourself, or hatch for others. Brood for yourself, or brood for others—always with the highest and most satisfactory results. Don't begin another season's work with the old methods without first finding out what we can do for you. Write today for our free booklet of complete information.

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Thirty-Third Annual Convention of the American Poultry Association.

Niagara Falls, N. Y., Aug. 10 — 12, 1908.

Headquarters, International—Cataract Hotels. All meetings in Convention Hall of Cataract Hotel.

PROGRAMME.

MONDAY, August 10th, 9.30 A. M.

Business Session. Order of Business—Convention called to order by president Charles M. Bryant, Boston, Mass.

Roll call.

Reading minutes of last meeting.

Report of election commissioner.

Election of board of review.

Appointment of credentials committee.

Report of executive board, on applications for membership acted upon favorably, and charters granted to branch associations.

Report of secretary-treasurer.

Report of finance committee.

Reports from and regarding each branch association.

MONDAY, August 10th, 2.30 P. M.

Business Session. Order of Business. Report of board of review (under suspension of rules).

Report of committee on credentials.

Report of committee on bureau of lecturers, Mr. Geo. D. Holden, chairman, Owatonna, Minn.; Grant M. Curtis, Buffalo, N. Y.; and T. F. McGrew, Washington, D. C.

Discussion.

Report of secretary-treasurer on result of contest for first separate breed standard.

Paper.—Revision of Standard of Perfection, and publication of separate breed standards. Grant M. Curtis, Buffalo, N. Y., chairman of standing committee on revision of the Standard of Perfection.

Discussion and action.

MONDAY, August 10th, 7.30 P. M.

Address.—Poultry from the Farmer's Standpoint, and a Woman's Experience. Mrs. M. M. Allen, Oswego, N. Y.

Paper.—The American Poultry Association, Its Objects and How Best to Promote Same. J. H. Robinson, Boston, Mass.

Discussion.—Poultry Shows, and How to Conduct Them. F. L. Kimmey, Chicago, Ill.; H. V. Crawford, Montclair, N. J.; Sam'l H. Roberts, Boston, Mass.; W. B. Atherton, Boston, Mass.

Address.—The American Standard of Perfection, and its Relation to Market Poultry. Prof. W. R. Graham, Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, Ontario.

Illustrated Lecture.—Selecting Our Show Birds, and How They Are Judged. D. E. Hale, Wayzata, Minn.

TUESDAY, August 11th, 9.30 A. M.

Business Session. Order of Business. Consideration of proposed amendments to the constitution and bylaws, as proposed by Chas. H. Ring, Decatur, Mich.;

Dr. E. M. Santee, Cortland, N. Y.; Robt. Seaman, Jericho, N. Y.; Theo. Hewes, Indianapolis, Ind.; H. V. Crawford, Montclair, N. J.; Ross C. H. Hallock, St. Louis, Mo.; G. R. Haswell, Circleville, Ohio; and W. C. Denny, Rochester, N. Y.

Reports of other committees.

Unfinished business.

TUESDAY, August 11th, 2.30 P. M.

Business Session. Order of Business. Inauguration of Officers.

New business.

Report of the executive board on licensing judges of poultry.

Report of the executive board on additional applicants for membership.

Announcement by executive board of standing committees for current year.

Election of election commissioner.

Recommendations of executive board.

Discussions.

TUESDAY, August 11th, 7.30 P. M.

Reminiscences.—Philander Williams, Randolph, Mass., president of the American Poultry Association for the years 1883, 1884, 1885, 1886, 1887, 1888.

How to Secure More Uniformity in Judging.—Discussed by S. T. Campbell, Mansfield, Ohio; judge David A. Nichols,

Shelton, Conn.; Geo. D. Holden, Owatonna, Minn.; A. C. Smith, Waltham, Mass.; Thos. F. Rigg, Iowa Falls, Iowa.

Address.—Laws of Mendelism. C. B. Davenport, Carnegie Institute, New York city.

Discussion.—Scientific Handling of Poultry for Exhibition. A. C. Hawkins, Lancaster, Mass.; A. G. Duston, South Framingham, Mass.; U. R. Fishel, Hope, Indiana; I. K. Felch, Natick, Mass.; W. C. Denny, Rochester, N. Y.

WEDNESDAY, August 12th, 2.30 P. M.

Address.—White Diarrhea. L. H. Baldwin, Deer Park, Ontario; Dr. Morse, Agricultural College, Washington, D. C.

Paper.—Feeding for Egg Production. Prof. Horace Atwood, West Virginia Agricultural College, Morgantown, W. Va.

Address.—What the Agricultural Colleges and Experiment Stations are Doing for the Poultry Industry. Prof. Jas. E. Rice, professor of poultry husbandry, New York State College of Agriculture, Ithaca, N. Y.

Debate.—Resolved: That the American Poultry Association should encourage the holding of poultry institutes in connection with poultry shows. Affirmative: F. E. Dawley, Fayetteville, N. Y.; T. F. McGrew, Washington, D. C. Negative: Theo. Hewes, Indianapolis, Ind.; R. V. Hicks, Topeka, Kansas.

Adjournment.

Notice to National White Wyandotte Club and A. P. A. Members.

As president of the National White Wyandotte Club, I hereby give notice that the annual meeting of the above club will be called to order at 1.30 P. M. sharp, on Tuesday, August 11, 1908, in the cataract Hotel, at Niagara Falls, N. Y. I further announce that the auditing and investigating committee will be on hand to give information as to the result of their findings; but in order that it may not be said that the auditing and investigating committee were fixed, incompetent, or irresponsible, I demand that an open investigation be made also, by both the club and the American Poultry Association.

It is to be hoped that every member of either body who possibly can attend will be present and assist impartially in this investigation and the adjustment of club and association affairs.

W. R. GRAVES, Pres.

Is That Breed Standard Resolution Null and Void?

When the resolution under which the A. P. A. is with great deliberation planning to issue illustrated breed standards was passed at Niagara Falls last August, it was advertised as the reply of the association to the growing demand for breed standards. We pointed out at the time that besides being a very unsatisfactory answer to the demand, the resolution was actually void, because in conflict with provisions of the constitution.

Mr. Jos. H. Winkler, in the July number of the *Inland Poultry Journal*, gives several other reasons why this action is illegal, among them the fact that according to the records of the meeting, no quorum was present when the resolution was adopted.

Good Hatches.

Mr. L. C. Kremer, of Perrysville, Pa., sends us a copy of his hatching record for the season. From March 26th to June 8th he had twelve hatches. The first nest was deserted and eggs spoiled. Of the others his poorest hatch was ten chicks from thirty eggs, and most of the others gave nine or ten chicks to the nest.



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We have succeeded beyond our expectations.

Send for a Free Sample of Amatite and examine it carefully. Note the kind and quality of materials used—how they are put together, and, lastly, the top surface of real mineral matter which *does away entirely with the need of painting.*

It is a complete roofing when it reaches you.

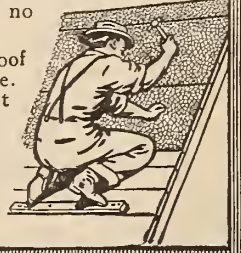
All the labor required you can do yourself and nails and liquid cement are furnished free. There are no extras required and no special tools. About all you need is a hammer.

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If you are building or contemplating a new roof it will pay you to send for a sample of Amatite. We will send same free with descriptive Booklet on request to our nearest office

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Cut the Bill Down.

Though we have at this writing not received any official report of the meeting, we are informed that the Southwest Branch of the American Poultry Association, after a five hours session devoted to an investigation of the case, cut the bill of Mr. Ross C. H. Hallock for expenses incurred in connection with the organization of the branch, from the \$173.74 claimed to \$55. It is said that of this amount only \$5 was allowed on the bill, the additional \$50 being voted by resolution in view of services and "possible expenditures." At this meeting Mr. Hallock was represented by legal counsel.

Buff Wyandottes—How To Breed Good Ones.

The foregoing is the title of a book issued by Dr. N. W. Sanborn, Bellingham, Mass., well known breeder of Buff Wyandottes, and associate editor of *Poultry Keeper*. The book gives trustworthy and valuable information on the correct breeding of Buff Wyandottes for vigor, color, etc., is well illustrated with some of Mr. Sanborn's winners, and contains also a chapter on how he feeds for eggs. Altogether it is a very desirable piece of literature, not only for breeders of Buff Wyandottes, but for those of other varieties as well. The price is 25 cents, postpaid.

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We Want One Hundred Members— Why Not?

THIS seems like a lot, but with Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island to draw upon, this number should be possible, and more. Twenty-five new members for each state means more than that. We should easily get that number. There are very few members in three of these states, not many in the fourth, and the fifth is not as largely represented as it should be.

Let things be different. Certainly every fancier and every breeder of thoroughbred poultry owes the American Poultry Association a membership for what it has done for the cause and him. It is the strangest thing in Christendom that all fanciers have not rushed pell-mell to join this association, which has, alone, made fancy poultry a possibility. Without this association and the comparative unanimity that it has brought about, and that it, alone, could bring about in our standard ideals, this industry could not stand for a moment. Do you think enough of its work and the cause to join? Do you appreciate what this association has done for you, while it has had the support of but a comparative few of your number? Do you realize what the association can do for you if it has the support of a large proportion of the fanciers of this country? Are you one of them, and do you want to do your part to uphold, uplift, and promote this work, or are you willing that others should do it for you? The work must and will be done. Are you a worker, or a shirker? A contributor to the general welfare, or a sponge? Do you wish the work to continue and advance, or shall it stop? Will you do your part, or shall others do it for you?

Pardon my plain words, but have you thought of this matter as it is, a duty? To my mind this is the strong side of the case, and I give credit to the great majority of the present members of the American Poultry Association, because I believe they have joined because they knew it was a duty.

The other side.—But there is another strong side, and perhaps several strong sides. I believe that the strongest reason lies in the fact that a great deal may be accomplished if a phenomenally strong organization is built up, and I believe that such an organization is possible, and very, very probable. The rapid influx of new members for the past twenty months is almost a fulfilled promise of the great work to be accomplished, and that right away.

The association has two great missions.—First, to improve and better our poultry along both fancy and utility lines. Second, to create interest in both these lines—to do which it must spread information of the broadest and best sort.

This is the work. Now, how are you to be benefited by joining the American Poultry Association? Because by so doing you become one of that body of men who are the living nucleus of this, the greatest industry of its kind. You, as a member, will be furnished with a verbatim copy of the proceedings of each meeting of the association, and all the acts of its committees, first hand, and thereby be in as close touch with the latest in poultrydom as one can be.

You can be represented and have your full share in the proceedings of the association which has final action on all the more important matters. You have your share in the election of its officers.

By the law of reciprocity, what helps you helps all, and the above argument works both ways. Again, you are interested in certain breeds or varieties. You can be helpful in making the standard of these breeds or varieties with which you must be familiar, very helpful indeed, if you will co-operate with the other breeders of your varieties, and determine what is best for your varieties, and make the results of your observation known to the proper committees.

The Massachusetts Branch was granted a charter by the American Poultry Association at its meeting at Niagara Falls in August, 1907. This branch held its first meeting and permanently organized at the last Boston show. There were several

old members of the American Poultry Association present, including Messrs. Felch, May, Latham, Worthington, Sanborn, Robinson, Bradley, Shove, and Smith. One of the pleasant features of the occasion was a vote of congratulations to Mr. I. K. Felch on his birthday.

The officers elected were, pres., A. C. Smith; sec'y, C. H. Latham; honorary vice-presidents, Philander Williams, I. K. Felch, H. B. May, Henry Ball, H. S. Babcock. Executive committee, A. C. Smith, C. H. Latham, Victor Bradley, Fred A. Houdlette, D. B. Shove. The executive committee were instructed to frame a constitution for approval at the next meeting.

By joining through this branch, you have a delegate to represent you in case you cannot attend the meetings of the association, with one vote for every five members not present and voting. If you are present you represent yourself, and vote. Your representative will at all times be glad to stand for the views of the majority of branch members, and especially for the best thought of its specialty breeders upon matters for standard revision.

We get one-half the fee. This branch also gets one-half your initiation fee, and this may be used to "boom" shows within the jurisdiction of the branch.

This branch association intends to devote what funds it secures to the interest of poultry culture in its own section, which includes Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island. We are allowed one gold and several silver medals and diplomas by the American Poultry Association each year, and they will be given to the poultry society which secures for us the most new members. Any society can secure these medals; all they have to do is to get the most new members for this branch association, and these medals, which will prove a decided help to any show, will be given to them. They are certainly better drawing cards than any cups the society can offer, as they are given by the American Poultry Association. The president or secretary would be glad to correspond with any poultry show officers who desire to take advantage of this offer.

Some associations will get these for the season of 1908-'09. Will it be yours? A little hustle will take them. Get to work.

If this matter requires careful consideration, kindly give it the same, but to me your duty is plain. Though never engaged very heavily in the poultry business for myself, I conceived it my duty to become a member of this association when I first took up this work.

Massachusetts Branch of the American Poultry Association.

A. C. SMITH, Pres.

Poultry Work at the Maine Station.

The Maine Agricultural Experiment Station is now mailing Bulletin No. 157, entitled, "Poultry Work at the Maine Station." The poultry investigations since 1897 were, up to January 1, 1908, under the management of the late Professor Gilbert M. Gowell. The object of this bulletin is to summarize the work that was accomplished under Professor Gowell, and to briefly outline the work which is now in progress and the work as it is planned for the future. The work of the experiment station with poultry has been and will be along two lines—poultry management and poultry breeding.

In the plans for future work the poultry management investigations will have the same general character as in the past. From year to year definite practical experiments on topics in poultry management will be tried with large flocks of hens.

The work in poultry breeding will be

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A complete work on Orpingtons by the leading breeder of Black Orpingtons. Tells all about how to produce prize winners. Special offer 10 cts. Money back if not satisfied. JOE COLEMAN, Carey, O.

followed along two general lines. The past experience of the station demonstrates that the individual performance of a hen in respect to egg production is not necessarily an adequate indication of her desirability as a breeder in attempting to found a strain of high laying hens. It is the purpose to test the transmitting power of individual hens and cockerels with regard to character in egg production, just as in wheat breeding work the centgener power of an individual head of wheat is tested. The experiment will have a very considerable scientific interest, because it is the first attempt on a large scale to apply to practical animal breeding those principles which are proving of such wonderful value in plant breeding. Also an experiment will be tried where, by a combination of hybridization and selection, it may be possible to produce a strain of fowls of superior quality for table use.

While the poultry work of the experiment station will be concentrated on practical problems which every poultryman wants light upon, the treatment of these problems will be broad and thoroughly scientific. The problems of breeding are exceedingly complicated and difficult ones. No narrowly conceived or carelessly executed experiments will ever give any results of any permanent practical value in this field. The underlying fundamental laws of heredity must be investigated before the experiment station or anyone else can tell the practical breeder how to proceed to get what he wants and be certain of it. The aim of the station as in the past in its breeding work, will not be simply to produce an improved strain of hens. It is not a part of its function to enter into the commercial poultry busi-

ness. The function of the experiment station is to experiment, and by experimentation to learn, in so far as may be, facts and principles which will help to advance the theory and practice of agriculture.

The bulletin (157) will be sent free to anyone in Maine on application to director Charles D. Woods, Orono, Maine. In writing, please mention this paper.

For Orpington Breeders.

The National S. C. Black Orpington Club, through its secretary, Joe Coleman, Carey, Ohio, will issue a handsome membership certificate for \$1, which includes all dues, and membership fee, to Oct. 1, 1909.

The new club ribbons will positively be in the hands of show secretaries, throughout the country, prior to the time of the shows. Join and compete for these specials.

Stick to the Thing You Know.

Stick to the thing you know. Don't forget the toil, the thought, the planning you have invested in the business you have mastered.

Don't lose sight of the safety—the certainty—that the work in hand affords you.

Don't let rosy visions of opportunities afar blind your eyes to surer opportunities close at hand.

Don't forsake the duties of today for difficulties that may swamp you.

Stick to the thing you know.—System.



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CURES
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10¢, 25¢, 50¢, & \$1.00 Bottles.

A FARM FAVORITE

Of all black fowls the Black Orpington is probably the most remarkable. First, its jetty plumage with brilliant sheen of metallic green makes it more striking even than the handsome Black Minorca, which it also excels in size, or the Black Langshan to which it is superior in grace. Second, it is eminent because it matures earlier, a month or six weeks earlier, than either of these breeds, both for table and for egg production. On these accounts it has rapidly gained in popularity in America, from which one of its parents came. Here is its history: Mr. William Cook, the noted English poultry breeder, secured some Barred Plymouth Rocks from the United States, and from them raised several black pullet sports which began to lay much earlier than their normally marked sisters. He then mated these pullets with a Black Minorca cock to secure eggs of large size from the progeny, which were later mated to a Black Langshan to secure the type of fowl he desired. With this foundation and with years of painstaking selection he produced the Black Orpington, which combines the hardiness and general utility qualities of the Plymouth Rock, the large and numerous egg laying proclivities of the Black Minorca, and the great size of the Langshan. At the same time he selected so as to eliminate the feathered legs and ungainliness of the Langshan, and the reputed tenderness of the Minorca. We are now breeding

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Buff Wyandottes for the Fall Shows.

I have some fine chicks, early April hatched, that will "make good" either in the shows or as breeders. Also a few hens from my 188 pens. "Buff Wyandotte Breeders' Handbook," 25 cents.

DR. N. W. SANBORN, Box 866, BELLINGHAM, MASS.

To say, when writing advertisers, "SAW AD. IN FARM-POULTRY," will benefit you—please them—and help us.

The Answer to the Puzzle.

SOLUTIONS of the puzzle given on page 278, of the June 15th issue, are coming in daily, and will probably continue to come for some days. About a fourth of those sending opinions understand the situation as the editor sized it up.

The advice I had in mind for a three word statement was, "Let them alone."

All the circumstances seem to me to point to interference and premature efforts to assist the hatch, as responsible for the trouble. The postscript confirms the suspicions developed by the letter. Mrs. C. asks, "What makes chicks bloody in the shell after the egg is pipped? I had a whole hatch pip the shell, but were so bloody I could not help them out, so ten out of the twelve died in the shell. It seemed to me that they pipped the shell too soon."

While I wouldn't say that a chick that had not been tampered with would not bleed in the shell, I never saw a chick bleed in the shell unless the membrane was prematurely ruptured, elsewhere than at the head of the chick, either by ill-judged efforts to help the chick out, or by accident in the nest. It does not seem credible to me that all the chicks in a nest of twelve pipped eggs could be bloody in the shell except as a result of attempts of the attendant to remove the shells, and the fact that these chicks were so bloody seems to me to indicate plainly that some one was in a great hurry to help them out of the shells. I think every poultryman who has helped many chicks out of the eggs would say without hesitation that the shell must have been disturbed from the outside before any blood flowed. Mrs. C.'s postscript would probably be construed by one most acquainted with developments in such cases to mean that the chicks were found bloody after only the opening made by them in the shell had disturbed it, but I do not think an experienced poultryman could be convinced that such was the case. He would say that the first move to assist the chick brought the blood, and from this would infer that too little time had been allowed the chicks to show whether they could get out themselves.

What I term the correct solutions of the puzzle are variously expressed. One says: "Too much meddling at hatching time." Another: — "Too much interference on the part of the attendant," etc., etc.

Of other replies, "Hens sit too close—didn't air eggs enough to dry them down;" "Too much lime, from alfalfa; egg shells too tough;" "Too heavy laying," are samples.

Among the correspondence relative to this case are several letters from parties who have similar experiences. From one of these I quote: "I forgot to add that while taking the shells from the chickens there is so much blood in the membranes that it will run down and drop on the floor, and after I have shelled a nest of chickens it looks more like a slaughter house than a hen house, but still they live, and thrive, and grow. Have used hens entirely. Two sittings of eggs I sprinkled for two weeks and managed to shell twenty chicks out of twenty-three eggs, a much better percentage than those I did not sprinkle."

Now I don't suppose that the writer above quoted had any intention to misrepresent or disposition to exaggerate the matters he discusses, but it is plain to everyone familiar with such matters that the statement that after the "shelling" of a nest of chickens, which was accompanied by such a flow of blood as described, the said chickens lived and grew, cannot be a plain statement of fact. In discussing poultry matters, and especially in answering questions of correspondents, I have to allow for such unintentional or unconscious exaggerations. The question of just how much allowance should be made in any particular case is sometimes very perplexing. Occasionally when I can get at the facts in a case, the difference between the report and the facts is startling.

To illustrate:—Last winter a man who claimed to have been "swindled" by one of our advertisers in a transaction in which

a White Wyandotte cockerel figured, came into the office to make a complaint. He declared that the bird sent him, after being in his possession a few months, grew a "lot of black feathers," and had produced chickens generally "full of black feathers." After talking with him a few moments I asked him to send me the correspondence in the case, with his own written complaint.

He brought the matter in within a few days, and with it brought a single hackle feather on which was a little gray, a decided blemish, but not at all a rare one. When asked if that was a fair sample of the feathers to which he objected, he said it was. Further questioned about the number of them, he admitted that *this feather and one other* which he had sent to the seller of the bird, were all of that kind. When told that such being the case it would be useless to go into the correspondence in the matter, for he had no real grievance, he became quite abusive, and left before I could learn the actual facts as to the progeny of the bird, but I suspect that, if as he declared, he had killed or marketed them all, he did so not because they had black feathers, but because he was afraid they might have them.

So in cases like these reported in regard to removing chicks from the shells, it is almost impossible to get at the exact facts unless you can see a case and talk with the party interested. I suspect that in the last case to which allusion has been made the simple facts are that chicks have been hatching poorly and often late, as they have quite generally this year. That some helped from the shells have bled slightly, and that some chicks that have bled have lived. That such have been thrifty chicks, I doubt. I don't know that they have not. I have in a few instances seen thrifty chicks that had to be helped from the shell, but after many years of experience in trying to save as many chicks as possible I long ago quit interesting myself particularly in the chick that needed to be assisted into the world, unless such assistance was required because of some very simple mechanical difficulty in exclusion.

The membrane does sometimes dry and adhere to the chick, preventing even a vigorous chick from getting out. If the chick is in such position that it can struggle, it may exhaust itself without getting free. If it is held still it may remain this way for quite a long time, and be none the worse. Such a chick, when the membrane is moistened and freed from the down, will come out of the shell with a kick, none the worse for its experience except that the down on it will have partially dried rough and matted instead of smooth and fluffy as when a chick comes wet from the shell and is dried among the feathers of the hen.

American Poultry Association Annual Meeting.

The thirty-third annual convention of the American Poultry Association will be held at Niagara Falls, N. Y., August 11—13, 1908. Headquarters will be at the Cataract Hotel. An interesting program folder is being prepared, which will contain full information concerning railroad and hotel rates. A copy of the program will be mailed to each member, and the secretary will be glad to mail a copy to anyone interested. Address,

Ross C. H. HALLOCK.

2715 Clifton Ave., St. Louis, Mo.

His Memory at Fault.

Referring to the change in issue of FARM-POULTRY, the *Poultry News* says: "When A. F. Hunter and M. K. Boyer were its editors, the paper was more bulky." The facts happen to be to the contrary. Messrs. Hunter and Boyer got out the paper twice a month through the first two years in which it was published semi-monthly, 1895 and 1896. The total number of reading pages was in '95, 398; in '96, 448. Since 1899, when the present editor took charge, the lowest number of reading pages in a year was 468, in 1901; the highest 534, in 1905; the average for eight years 505.

Ruddy Harvester Oil



The farmer's needs demand a heavy oil for loose bearings, one that will work freely, will not run, is not affected by heat or cold, will not gum or grow rancid, that has no acids to injure the bearings and is at the same time economical to use.

RUDDY HARVESTER OIL answers all of these requirements and lightens the work of the horses, saving their time and strength. It works perfectly under all conditions and in any weather, and is just as good for all sorts of farm implements as for harvesting machinery. In one gallon and five gallon cans, half-barrels and barrels.

Every dealer in farm supplies carries it in stock.

STANDARD OIL COMPANY
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Large Well Arranged POULTRY FARM

30 miles out; 30 acres land; sandy soil; especially adapted for poultry raising. All poultry buildings in good condition; good suitable cottage and stable; 1-2 minute from station. Will sell cheap. All cash, or half bond and mortgage.

F. H. DILLINGHAM, 23 Barclay St., NEW YORK CITY

Sibley's Rose Comb Rhode Island Reds

1st Prize winners at Chicago, Detroit, Indianapolis, Buffalo, 1906, '07, '08.

Compare winnings with others. Send for circular of matings for 1908. Eggs 1 price after June 1st. A few choice hens from our breeding pens for sale after June 1st, at three to six dollars each.

FRANK CHURCHILL SIBLEY, 1032 E. Jefferson St., SOUTH BEND, IND.



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FIRST PRIZE WINNERS AT OUR LARGEST SHOWS.

Choice Breeding Hens for sale at \$2 and up; Cocks \$5 and up.

ROBERT C. TUTTLE, 197 Blue Hills Avenue, Hartford, Conn.

MORE LIVE POULTRY WANTED

Better returns are secured through sending your poultry to us alive than by any other method of marketing. We pay highest market prices for Broilers, Chickens, Fowl, Broiling Turkeys, Ducks and Geese. Daily cash returns. No commission deducted. Free directions for making chicken coops. Send for weekly quotations and tags. Our illustrated treatise on practical poultry raising, "Making Poultry Pay," mailed free to poultry raisers. Mark live poultry—Batchelder & Snyder Co., Poultry Dressing Department, 49 North Center St., Boston. References, Atlantic National Bank, Boston—Bradstreet's and Dun's Commercial Agencies. Address, BATCHELDER & SNYDER CO., Slaughterers and Poultry Dressers, Desk H., 55-63 Blackstone St., Boston.

Blanchard's White Leghorns.

Are no experiment, having been carefully selected and bred for over twenty years, with results that justify the claim that this is one of the greatest laying strains of Single Comb White Leghorns in existence. No labor or expense has been spared in building up and perfecting this strain, and while the production of large pure white fancy market eggs has been the main object, standard qualities have not been neglected. They are large, vigorous, active, and handsome. Good winter layers, and keep at it all summer. Unexcelled for introducing new blood, or as foundation stock. Circular and mating list free. Stock for sale.

WINNERS AT MADISON SQUARE GARDEN, NEW YORK, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906, 1907.

Eggs for Hatching from my Regular Matings, \$2 per 15; \$3.75 per 30; \$5 per 45; \$10 per 100.

Exhibition Matings, \$5 per 15; \$3 per 15.

This ad. appears monthly.

H. J. BLANCHARD, Box 46, Groton, N. Y.

Globe Scratch Feed

The "Globe" Trade-mark is the guarantee of scratch feed that will make your chickens healthy, keep them healthy and increase egg production.

Globe Scratch Feed is scientifically prepared by practical poultry experts to meet all the demands of growing and full-grown fowls. Only materials that grade in every respect up to our high standard are used—carefully selected cracked and whole grains and seeds, sunflower, oil cake, huckwheat and charcoal, sifted and re-cleaned until they are entirely free from dust and chaff. The

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Include also

Sun Chick Starter

a primary grain food for chicks during the first three weeks of their life. It is the food for the Baby Chick at its most delicate and critical period.

Crescent Chick Feed

a standard mixture of cracked grains and seeds, hulled oats, fine granulated bone and fine charcoal. It is a complete feed for chicks from three to eight weeks old.

We also make "QUEEN" Poultry Mash, a ground feed for fowls, and "KING" Pigeon Feed, for Squab fattening. Ask your dealer for any or all of Dickinson feeds. If he does not carry them, write us and we will see that you are supplied.

THE ALBERT DICKINSON CO., Seed Merchants, CHICAGO, ILL., MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.



To say, when writing advertisers, "SAW AD. IN FARM-POULTRY," will benefit you—please them—and help us.



Stubborn Facts About Grit.

EDITOR FARM-POULTRY:—Once upon a time, long, long ago, some beautiful fish were swimming and sporting along the seashore. The birds were beginning to come north, for the breeding season was drawing near. Seeing this, and feeling the summer sun and balmy winds upon the water, these beautiful fish felt the promptings of nature and went swimming up the streams and creeks in search of their breeding place. After responding to the command of their creator to "increase and multiply," they started again for the seashore, but from some misfortune, or neglect to take their bearings, they were lost. They wandered aimlessly about, into this little cove and that other stream, but they could not find their seashore home. The night came on, and in the darkness they swam around with nervousness, longing for the morning dawn and daylight that they might continue their quest. Alas, the darkness of inky blackness hung around them, for the light of day was forever shut out from them. They did not die, but for days they beat their heads upon the rocks, against the shore. With their eyes they could not see each other, and they groped their way around in fear and trembling. The breeding season came again, but they could not see the return of the birds, or feel the warm south wind as of yore. Many, many years flew by. These fishes spawned, and the young hatched; just the same every year for ages, but lo, and behold! the young fish have no eyes. Old mother nature saw that in the dark gloomy cavern her beautiful fish had no more need of eyes, so she took them away.

We read in the books of many scientists about prehistoric man and of his origin. We read that "once he walked on his hands and feet, and that he had a caudal appendage, (that we would call a tail), and how he used his caudal to swing himself from tree to tree when gathering his food or when escaping from his enemies. By and by his most dreaded enemy was wiped off the face of the earth, and prehistoric man began to walk upon his hind feet. We can imagine that about this time or some later there was born to them a son or daughter that possessed more than the average intellect, and as he or she grew to maturity, began to feel dissatisfied with the conditions, surroundings, and the people from whom they were sprung. No doubt this discontent, with the knowledge or thought that they were smarter than the other, led them to a desire to discount old dame nature. The way was easy, for nature and nature's God had already made the laws that if they chose to follow, would eventually separate them from their wild and uncouth parentage. Years rolled on, ages came and went, thousands and possibly tens and tens of thousands of years elapsed, when, behold! man no longer walks upon his hands, nor is he four footed any longer. All vestige of his caudal (his tail), have vanished, and he stands erect."

Such is the story of man and of the beautiful eyeless fish. These are but two simple little tales, but in them we can see the great laws of nature and nature's God. We can learn from them the great truth—that those qualities, or structures of life, that today are necessary and essential, may in ages to come be modified or become wholly obsolete. Whatever you or I or Dr. Short may say or think about "grit" for hens or chicks, the fact that they are requisite and essential today remains. Nature is not so slipshod as some would have us suppose, but with unerring exactness provides for her creatures according to their needs. In view of this, those words in your editorial attributed to Dr. Short, seem trivial: "How strange that nature in her wisdom, power, and completeness would create a beautiful and useful bird, and neglect to complete the important means of digesting its food." No, doctor, nature did not "neglect" this most "important" part. In her "wisdom and power" she not only "created a beautiful bird," but a most wonderful bird as well, and endowed it with an instinct that passes the understanding of finite man. That muscular ribbed inner lining of the hen's gizzard that defies the "tooth test" was certainly designed for a purpose. The little chick from the shell

knows; the old mother hen knows; the beautiful dove, (that emblem of peace), knows; the birds of the air know; they all know, because old dame nature told them, and gave them the instinct from birth to pick up pebbles to grind their food and stop it from going sour in their crops. No, Mr. Editor, grit is essential, and I for one do not think "the presumption that it is is absurd." Your "good cure for the idea," to my mind strengthens it, and is a strong argument to the truth, for with those muscular inner sides distended with food, the power to grind would be nil. This may change in time; perhaps a thousand or a million years after we are dead. When mother nature finds they have no use for grit she will provide some other way for her to digest her food.

Yours for GRIT.

I have seen the time when I might have stated the same views about grit that this correspondent does, and stated them just as positively. The "evidence" that grit is essential to digestion in birds consists of a general and time honored impression that fowls instinctively swallow grit because nature, having so constructed their heads that a set of suitable teeth could not conveniently be placed in the mouth, ingeniously made up the physical deficiency by providing the creature with an instinct to swallow "teeth," and rattle them around in the organ arranged for the reduction of the food which in some other creatures takes place in the mouth as the food is introduced.

My skepticism as to the necessity for grit goes back to long periods when my fowls, being apparently in the best of condition without grit, were allowed to continue without it. I was not at that time interested enough in the point to investigate it. Some years later, about ten years ago, I began to experiment a little along that line, but found it impracticable to follow the matter on the scale and along the lines necessary to make a positive demonstration. The results, as far as I went, however, indicated that the prevalent notions of the necessity of grit were probably wrong. Later still I made an observation which could hardly be dignified by the term experiment on the use of grit and shell, which disclosed the fact that the particular lot of fowls observed would consume practically no grit when kept supplied with shell. In conversation with others who have given some thought and study to this question, I have found considerable of a tendency to skepticism as to the actual necessity of grit for a fowl in every way normal.

It has not yet been demonstrated that fowls do not require grit to assist them in "grinding" their food. Neither has it been conclusively shown that they do. The indications that grit is not essential are sufficiently numerous and of such nature as to make it advisable for the advocates of the theory that the hen must have grit to be very cautious about emphatic statements of their views.

Personally I anticipate that a time will come when the habit of swallowing "grit" or any "foreign" indigestible, non-nutritious substance will be recognized not as a natural instinct, but as an unnatural impulse, and that the investigations which lead to such conclusions will throw some needed light on the subjects of feeding and digestion.

The Connecticut Fair Association.

We are in receipt of the premium list of the Connecticut fair, to be held at Charter Oak Park, September 7—12. The poultry department is under the management of F. O. Groesbeck, who has put out a very attractive premium list for his department, advising us that there stands ready \$1,000 in cash, besides many cups and specials. Entry fee in single classes poultry, 50c., with first prize \$2; second prize, \$1. Pigeon and pet stock departments, entry 25c.; first prize, \$1; second prize, 50c.; competition only required to fill classes.

The list of judges insures satisfaction to exhibitors, judges having classes as follows: W. H. Card, Manchester, Conn.,

In Moulting Time

THE growing of new feathers is almost certain to put fowls out of sorts and off condition. A tonic and stimulant is necessary to keep them up to the mark and start them laying. They need

Pratts Poultry Regulator

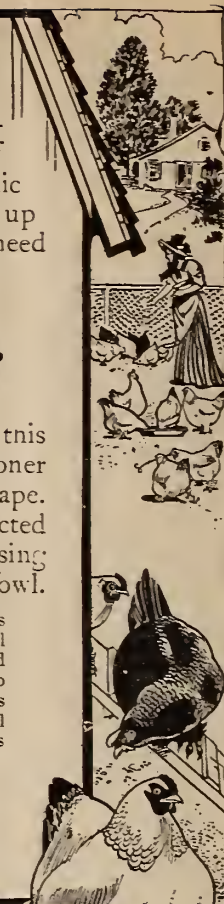
(For 37 years called Pratt's Poultry Food)

Thousands of poultry raisers all over this country know that it is the finest conditioner in the world for fowls that are out of shape. Pratt's Poultry Regulator is the perfected product of 37 years' experience in the raising and handling of every known breed of fowl.

Give Pratt's Poultry Regulator to your stock this year and you will understand our success. It will keep your birds in prime condition—good size and healthy—you will never again allow yourself to be without it. If your dealer does not keep Pratt's Poultry Regulator, write to us at once and we will see that you are supplied. A 25-pound bag costs \$2.50, smaller packages from 25c. up.

Pratt's NEW Poultry Book ready to mail. Will be sent you free on request.

Pratt Food Co. Dept. P Philadelphia, Pa.



Plymouth Rocks, Wyandottes, W. Theodore Wittman, Allentown, Pa., Rhode Island Reds, Leghorns, Minorcas, Andalusians, David A. Nichols, Shelton, Conn., Cochins, Games, Brahmans, Javas, Langshans, W. J. Stanton, New York city, Houdans, Hamburgs, Polish Bantams, pigeons, and pet stock, waterfowl, and turkeys. A. Mowll, Boston, Mass., Orpingtons, Dorkings. There also being from general special list the following:

Largest exhibit by one person or firm decided by whose entry money totals most. First prize, \$25; second, \$15; third, \$10.

For best display:—Plymouth Rocks, first prize, gold \$10; Wyandottes, \$10; Rhode Island Reds, \$10; Leghorns, \$10; Minorcas, \$5; Cochins, \$5; Games, \$5; Brahmans, \$10; Langshans, \$5; Orpingtons, \$10; Dorkings, \$5; Polish, \$5; waterfowl, \$10; turkeys, \$10; pigeons, \$10; pet stock, \$10; poultry fixtures, \$10; pigeon fixtures, \$10; incubators and brooders, \$10; cooping outfit, \$10.

The Connecticut fair is put on a little more elaborate than anything of the kind

attempted in the east before—over \$70,000 of premiums are offered. An idea as to placing of the above premiums may be gotten from the following:

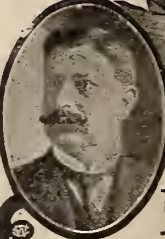
Trotting and pacing races, \$30,000; running races, \$10,000; horse show, \$5,000; cattle show for dairy breeds: Jersey, Guernsey, Ayrshire, and Holstein, \$5,000; sheep, swine, and goats, \$500; dog show, \$4,000; poultry show, \$1,000; cat show, \$500; agricultural and home products, \$2,000; special attractions, fireworks, \$11,000; athletic carnival, \$1,000.

Premium lists will be mailed upon request to the Connecticut Fair Association, Hartford, Conn.

The Corfu, N. Y., Show.

The Corfu Fanciers' Club will hold their sixth annual exhibition Jan. 19—22, 1909. Hon. George W. Webb has been engaged to judge the show. Further information will be reported in the papers later.

EMORY E. BANKS, Cor. Sec'y. Creekside Place, East Pembroke, N. Y.




Hatch Your Chicks with Model Incubators

Rear them with Model Brooders

By following this advice you will secure successful hatches and insure the life of your chicks, and the profits which should result from your labor. There are good reasons why we can make this positive statement.

Model Incubators are built on correct principles. They are so simple and easy to operate, having no devices to mislead or confuse, that by following the simple directions anyone can successfully manage them. Nothing has been omitted in their construction which is necessary to their success, and nothing has been added to unnecessarily increase the cost. This makes them the most economical incubator you can buy.

With the **Model Incubator** there is no moisture problem; no "sitting up nights;" and no need for worry as there is no danger of failure. With a few minutes attention each day the **Model** will produce a strong vigorous chick from every fertile egg.

The **Model Incubator** is a handsome machine, substantially made and one which you need not be ashamed to show to your friends and neighbors.

The heating and ventilating systems are perfect, and as nearly like conditions found under the hen as it is possible to produce by artificial means.

The Compound Corrugated Leaf Thermostat is admitted to be the most positively accurate and delicate regulating device in use and is found only in the **Model**.

Considered from every point and in every way the **Model Incubator** is unrivaled as a successful hatcher. These machines are used by the most intelligent and up-to-date poultry raisers everywhere and you will make no mistake in selecting **Model Incubators and Brooders** for your use.

The strong, vigorous chickens hatched in **Model Incubators** will thrive and grow to maturity in our **Model Brooders**. These machines are as perfect for the purpose intended, as the **Model Incubators** are for hatching. They are well lighted, perfectly ventilated and provided with the diffusive heating system found only in **Model Brooders**, and which prevents crowding. The **Model Brooder** is the most sanitary and hygienic brooder on the market and the most easily cleaned.

Send for our **Model Catalog** containing full, concise, and complete descriptions of these splendid machines—both **Hatchers and Brooders**. It will give you information you should have before buying and we send it free on request. Prompt shipment of incubators and brooders guaranteed.

CHAS. A. CYPHERS, President, Model Incubator Company,
315 Henry St., BUFFALO, N. Y.

To say, when writing advertisers, "SAW AD. IN FARM-POULTRY," will benefit you—please them—and help us.

Poultry Keeping in the British Metropolis.

TO me it seems almost strange that amid all the dirt and the squalor and the crowded life of London there should be so many people who turn to live stock keeping for recreation and relaxation from their business cares. Pigeons, poultry, cage birds, cavy, rabbits, may all be found in the dingy back gardens and the dark little courts that abound in North London and South London, East London and West London; wherever it is possible to house them and give them a run, there they are. That they brighten the lives of and give a very real pleasure to the thousands of dwellers in the slums of the East End and some of the low suburbs of the northern district, can one doubt for a moment? That they are beneficial, healthy recreations, and that they are profitable and pleasurable, also is still less to be doubted. Should not, therefore, every possible encouragement be given to these pigeon keepers, these poultry breeders, these cage bird fanciers, and rabbit fanciers, and cavy fanciers, not only by clubs and societies directly concerned, but also by the local government board and district authorities?

This live stock hobby is not by any means, I would point out, confined to a limited number of the huge suburban population. Figures are not necessary, if they were obtainable, for the observant of my readers cannot have failed to notice that of the countless little back yards one passes entering or leaving London on either side of the line, scarcely one is without its pigeons or its hens or some other sign that there "minor stock" (of some kind) finds a place. On the Crystal Palace line, for instance—which, I take it, most of us know—Battersea, Wandsworth, Balham, Streatham, Dulwich, Sydenham, seem to possess as many pigeons on their roofs and as many fowls in their back gardens as one would compute were contained in the whole of London. This is the opener, least crowded side of London, and here live the middle class, semi-prosperous people, who, besides a neat red brick house in a very long row of equally neat and also red brick houses, have advantages for the expansion of their hobby which are not accorded to the inhabitants of other neighborhoods in the north and east. And yet I am far from sure that the best metropolitan poultry come from these favored localities, and I am far from sure that here the best poultry keepers are to be found.

Much the same, even better, conditions prevail in the west and southwest districts through which you pass to Paddington and Waterloo. A few minutes brings you into the gardens and allotments of Surbiton, Wimbledon, Ealing, Southall, Hounslow, Richmond, etc., all admirably suited to suburban poultry keeping. Fowls occupy the spare time of very many of the well to do business class that live amid these favorable surroundings, and the scratching shed sprinter comes as a benefit to the people who can afford to buy a scratching shed and have the natural advantages necessary for the perpetuation of the sprinters. "Is utility poultry keeping profitable in these confined quarters?" you may ask, and with some dignity they will reply, "From a pecuniary point of view? Very possibly, but as for us our pleasure is our profit," for to a man they are amateurs and hobbyists.

There must be something uncommonly satisfactory and pleasant in returning to one's semi-rural pursuit, in setting to work tranquilly among one's fowls, in feeding the chickens and gathering the eggs after a grinding, rushing, stifling day in railway trains and city offices. I am quite sure that many men find very great help and encouragement during working hours in the anticipation of this same pursuit, and whether their ultimate objective be a small (though desirable) red brick villa at Balham or a genteel establishment at Surbiton (with grounds adjoining), it is probable that they look upon it in much the same light as did a certain immortal Wennick, who, my readers will perhaps remember, possessed a castle at Walworth. (For details of which see "Great Expectations.")

But if poultry keeping is such a pleasurable hobby in these enlightened parts of the metropolis, how much the more must it be appreciated amid the dirty, crowded, featureless life of the slums. In the Borough and Whitechapel, in Hoxton and Bethnal Green, and down by the river in Deptford and Rotherhithe—some of the most congested human habitations on earth—I venture to think there are hundreds and hundreds of fowls living perfectly contented and happy lives in the midst of endless turmoil and grime, smoke, washing, and children innumerable—all sounds and things, in fact, to which country fowls are not accustomed, and for which no fowls whatsoever were ever intended. Some would say that poultry keeping under such conditions is cruel, and while not denying that the thing may be carried too far, I am still pretty sure that in the majority of cases both the fowls and their owners derive mutual satisfaction from the association and contemplation of each other. And more than this, there can be little doubt that fowls bred and reared in a back yard pen, or even fowls introduced into one after having spent a portion of their lives under natural conditions, quickly become acclimatized to their surroundings, and I know well a certain place in the very heart of London (within five minutes walk of Hyde Park corner) where the poultry industry is in a thriving condition. It is in a mews—a noisy, restless sort of mews, much frequented by grooms, stablemen, and coachmen, paved with large cobble stones, and plentifully littered with damp straw and other stable refuse. Here, owned by a prominent member of the horse fraternity, and constantly in the elegant society of horses, dwell five very large, very fat, and very prosperous hens, "kept for their eggs," as their owner says. That they lay eggs should not for a moment be doubted, and that they are kept at a profit is the very proud boast of the horse fraternity. The same fraternity has labeled them Buff Orpingtons, not because they are buff in any respect, nor because they have any connection (that I know of) with the renowned village of Orpington, but, as one must suppose, because they are not black, and, they are not white, and therefore the only reasonable explanation is that they are buff (this being a cardinal color among fowls). As a matter of fact, they are a dirty yellow, freely dashed, striped, and spangled with both white and black, and may safely be said to be "a breed of their own." The five hens enjoy a free range throughout the mews and the stables and the street near by, and early in the morning before carts and errand boys and motor cars are about they may be seen scratching and pecking in the gutter, walking contentedly across the pavement, and clucking and chuckling for all the world as if the street were a farmyard, the pavement a cabbage bed of great length and capacity, and the houses so many haystacks wherein to lay their eggs. Whether there is any imagination in the matter, or whether the five hens have any ambition to be aught but five town hens, are matters not as yet made clear; but they have been in the old mews so long, and for so long have been a part of it and the horse fraternity, that I am almost beginning to wonder why they do not die.

Possibly these particular birds are favored by a free range and a certain amount of odd nutriment to be picked up in stables. Where no such advantages exist and there is merely a wire pen a few feet square, this being the whole accommodation for the fowls, it can readily be understood what very great difficulties have to be contended against. Absolute cleanliness and a careful system of feeding are essential if the birds are to be kept fit and in first-rate condition, and it is truly wonderful how in show stock the various points can be maintained, and in the utility stock how such excellent laying averages are obtained. Much good advice is, I know, lavished upon the working man fancier as to the management of his fowls, but I am almost inclined to think that he knows more that is practical than

even the professional or the man whose operations are on a far bigger scale. To some of these people a metropolitan member's show would be an eye opener, a revelation and an object lesson of what show condition in the exhibits and good sportmanship in the exhibitors mean.

Talking of members' shows and of metropolitan fanciers' societies generally, what a refreshing spirit of keenness pervades them both. Is there ever a meeting or is there ever a show which is badly attended or badly supported by the members? Especially is this so in North London; I doubt if any other district in England can boast so many keen, successful, clever poultry keepers as are to be found in this neighborhood, and from North London undoubtedly come the best specimens of poultry the metropolis can produce. London should assuredly be proud of such well conducted bodies as the Edmonton, the Walthamstow, the South Metropolitan, the Wandsworth, and the Southall societies, not to mention many others of a similar and equally praiseworthy nature.

In view of all this keenness and merit, it is with regret that I at least hear of the zealous efforts of the Islington medical officer of health to extirpate minor stock (fowls included) from the neighborhood of Islington, and I cannot help thinking the authorities are mistaken in following this course. According to my experience it is very rarely that poultry are anything but particularly clean and well managed in these thickly populated districts, for it is obviously to the owner's advantage to keep them so. I am quite sensible that fowls are occasionally a genuine nuisance to neighboring residents, but rather than

poultry I believe it is such animals as rabbits and cavy that usually constitute the nuisance. Moreover, if the authorities have any doubt on this point it would be well and exceedingly sensible for them to appoint some person to visit the live stock keepers in the district and to instruct those who are insensible of them in the laws of sanitation. At any rate the present blundering and indiscriminating method of remedying what evil there is, is most despotic and unfair on the hundreds of poultry keepers of whose few pleasures poultry keeping is probably the greatest.—W. H. G. EWART, in *Poultry*, (Eng.)

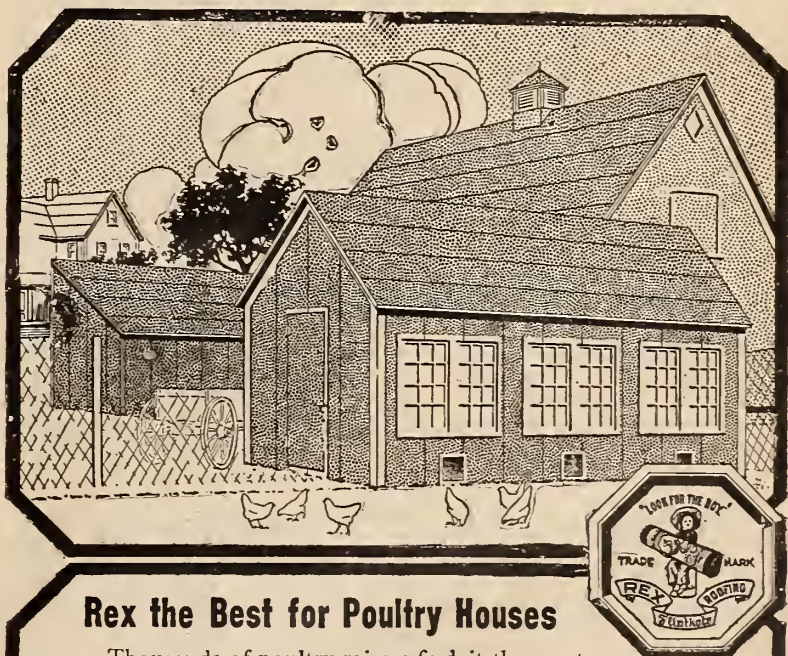
To Tell Sex in Young Chicks.

Editor FARM-POULTRY:—In answer to R. M., in May 15th F.-P., I reply that there is no way to tell the sex of White Wyandotte chicks at three days, but a cross on the same with any dark male will give the pullets colored down, while the cockerels will be white.

A favorite cross in this section is the S. C. B. Leghorn cock and Light Brahma hen, giving white male chicks and buff female. April and May chicks mature for winter layers, but, as a rule, the roosters do not pay to raise for market when the range is very limited and the facilities for marketing poor, and thus it has been found economical to sell them for, say, a nickel each, or even kill them and raise only the pullets. G. E. S.

Norton, Mass.

Some people miss opportunity when it knocks because they haven't push enough to get a door open. — *The Business World*.



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A Word About Disinfectants.

Disease among animals and fowls is the natural and certain result of unclean and unsanitary surroundings. Filth and decay breed disease and death. Once disease as the result of unsanitary conditions has secured a start, it will surely attack even those animals and fowls kept under proper sanitary conditions and intelligently managed as to feed and care. This shows the positive necessity of continued vigilance on the part of the owner, not only to prevent an outbreak among his own stock, but to prevent infection from outside quarters where the disease exists. Cleanliness and the use of a reliable disinfectant are the only certain safeguards of health. There must be no half way disinfection if the work is to be a success. It must be thoroughly done. The fact that disease producing germs are so exceedingly small as to be altogether invisible to the naked eye makes the matter of destroying them very difficult. The droppings and discharges from wounds of diseased fowls, falling upon the ground, floors, perches,

or other surroundings are full of disease germs. Later these droppings or discharges may be brushed or scraped away, but the surface upon which they rested is filled with germs. These germs are so very small that they settle into the smallest cracks and crevices, and no amount of scraping or washing can remove them. If allowed to remain they become dry and sooner or later float in the air as dust.

Carbolic acid, chloride of lime, zinc, kerosene, benzine, and other crude products are used as disinfectants by some people, with the mistaken idea that they are cheap. *Zenoleum is cheaper than these crude products, and it is always dependable.* One gallon of Zenoleum makes 100 gallons of disinfectant at a cent and a half a gallon — so cheap that this solution may be used freely and generously.

Carbolic acid, chloride of lime, chloride of zinc, kerosene, formaldehyde, naphtha, etc., are not only expensive, but they are dangerous. The first mentioned are exceedingly active poisons, and their use is always attended with great danger. Kerosene, naphtha, gasoline, and benzine are explosive and inflammable. Their use about the woodwork of buildings makes firetraps, and will certainly result in disaster sooner or later. Then, they are not disinfectants. They may destroy insect life when brought in contact with it, but as destroyers of germs they are a failure.

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A Great Novel.

Winston Churchill Does His Best Work in His Latest Book, "Mr. Crewe's Career."

Winston Churchill is preeminently the American novelist, and his latest book, "Mr. Crewe's Career," is, if not "the" American novel, at least as near it as any we are likely to have. On all accounts it is a remarkable story. To say that it is the best that Mr. Churchill has ever written, is equivalent to calling it one of the most important novels of recent years. It is a love story with a background of political life, and it is hard to say whether the love affair of Ansten

Vane and Victoria Flint has greater charm than the plot and counterplot of political scheming, or vice versa. Readers will be sure to divide on this issue, but no one will dispute the strong claims and large interest of the story.

It is generally agreed that no other American novelist has so large an audience as has Mr. Churchill. "Mr. Crewe's Career" promises to be the most widely circulated and the most discussed of all his books. It is so thoroughly healthful and optimistic in tone that it may well prove to be one of the biggest influences of the day in favor of pure politics; and in any case there can be no doubt of the entertainment that thousands of readers will find in a love story so original and delightful. The book is published by The Macmillan Co., 66 Fifth Ave., New York, N. Y., and price is \$1.50.

A Real Novelty.

A new roof covering which has recently been patented promises a satisfactory solution to the rather serious question of what to use in place of shingles. Shingles, as all prospective builders have found out, are not only scarce and costly, but seem to grow less satisfactory every year, owing to the tendency to use stumps and waste instead of the prime lumber formerly used.

This new material, which is called Zolium, is composed of long tough fibres, solidly matted together with heavy cohesive gums into long sheets. Both sides are then tempered or hardened into an impenetrable skin which the atmosphere will not injure.

The most interesting feature of Zolium is that it has all the appearance on the roof of individual, diamond shape tiles, each overlapping the one beneath. This effect is secured by laying one saw tooth edged sheet over another, the points of the upper sheet just touching the upper angles of the lower. The color is a warm Indian red, adjoining tiles varying slightly in tone.

Full information regarding this important invention can be obtained of J. A. and W. Bird & Co., Boston, Mass., who are the patentees and makers.

Woman's Home Companion for August.

The August issue of *Woman's Home Companion* is full of delightful stories — just the right sort of mid-summer reading. Just to pick up the magazine and look at the little Dutch boy and the wind-mill on the cover makes you feel cool and comfortable. Then, when you open the magazine, you come across enough stories and entrancing illustrations to give you enjoyment for the entire month.

Some of the authors are Temple Bailey, Juliet Wilbur Tompkins, Marion Hill, Ruth Wilson Herrick, May Isabel Fisk, Clinton Dangerfield and Harvey J. O'Higgins. And when we tell you that these stories are illustrated by Orson Lowell, Alice Barber Stephens, Charlotte Weber-Ditzler, and other famous artists, you will appreciate what a treat this summer magazine has in store for you.

There are serious and practical things, too. Doctor Hale talks helpfully about "Sleep and Re-Creation." "The Garden in August," many recipes for summer salads, meats and substitutes for meats by Fannie Merritt Farmer and Christine Terhune Herrick, the Summer Fashions by Grace Margaret Gould, Sam Loyd's Own Puzzle Page, are a few of the things that will interest most every woman who reads the August *Woman's Home Companion*.

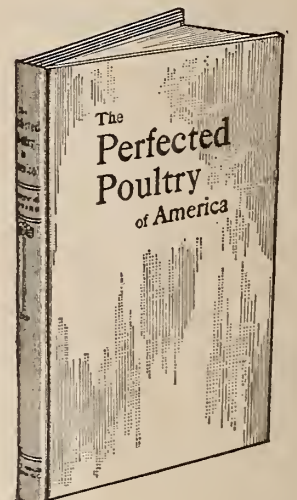
Keep Smiling.

Don't let the world think you are a member of a lemon club, whose rules forbid the use of a smile. If you've a pain or an ache, if you're down on your luck, if you've not been quite as successful as you think you should have been, or if your business affairs don't run smoothly each and every day, just bear in mind, "there are others," smile up, take another hitch in your energy belt, and you will feel a heap sight better for it. Keep smiling! — *Happgood's Opportunities*.

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"Questions and Answers"

contained in 50 of these back numbers alone are easily worth more than the small amount asked. In a few instances covers may be slightly soiled or contain minor imperfections not worth considering, as you will agree when you note the great amount of valuable knowledge and the wide range of important subjects covered in the reading pages. We know that you will feel that this is one of the most satisfying 50 cent investments you ever made. Remember, we pay the postage.

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